

SATI AND SHIVA

Only Sati could fulfill Shiva's exacting demands. As his companion she could match his ascetic ways as well as be a loving wife. Unfortunately, her happiness was overshadowed by an arrogant father. Sati countered Daksha's insensitivity with an immense, horrific sacrifice, which threw the universe into chaos and turmoil. As the heroine of this primeval romantic story she embodies the essence of a perfect spouse.

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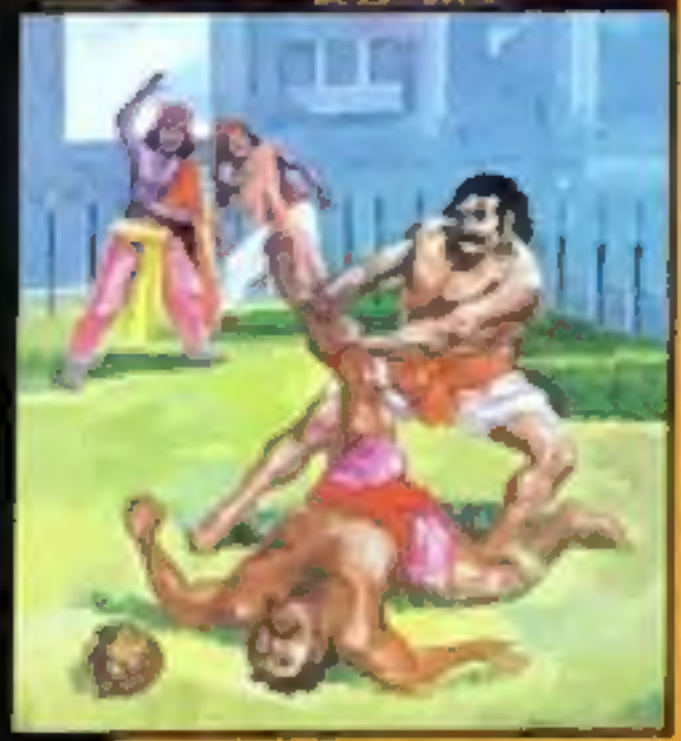
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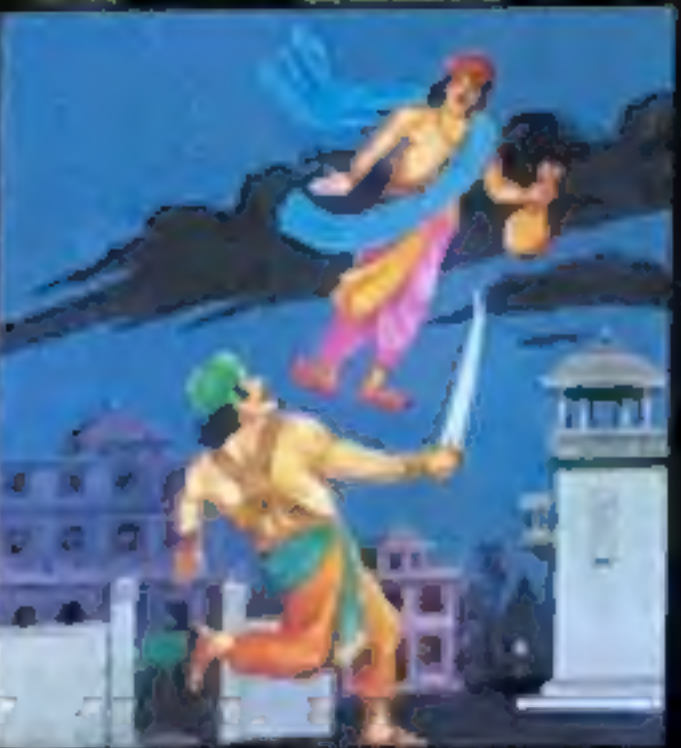
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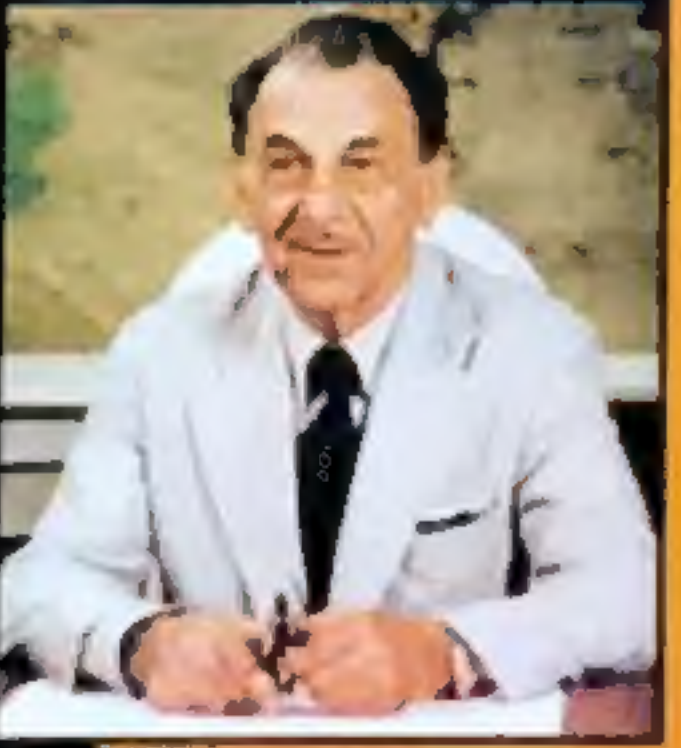
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ISBN 81-8482-146-8



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SATI AND SHIVA



BRAHMA WANTED THE ASCETIC SHIVA TO GET MARRIED. VISHNU ADVISED HIM TO SERVE THE GODDESS UMA, BEG HER TO TAKE BIRTH ON EARTH, AND BECOME SHIVA'S CONSORT.

BRAHMA DID AS HE WAS ADVISED AND UMA WAS BORN TO HIS SON-THE CHIEF PRAJAPATI, DAKSHA.



SHE SHALL BE CALLED SATI.

EVEN AS A YOUNG GIRL, SATI WAS A STAUNCH DEVOTEE OF SHIVA.



WHERE IS SATI?

THERE. BUSY AS USUAL SINGING SONGS IN PRAISE OF LORD SHIVA.

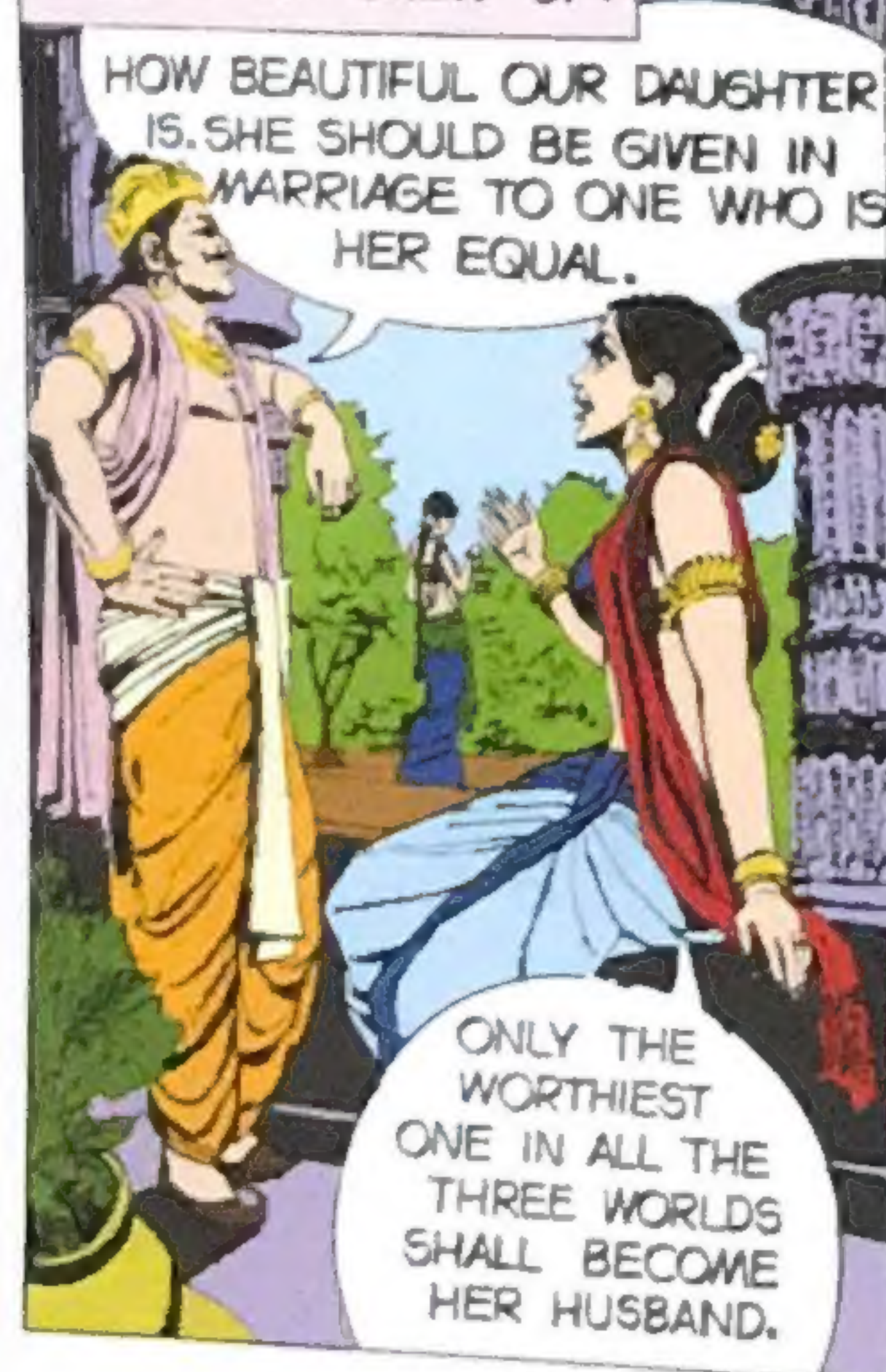
MAY THE MIGHTY SHIVA, WHOM YOU ADORE, BE YOUR LORD. HE HAS NOT TAKEN AND WILL NEVER TAKE ANOTHER CONSORT.



I SHALL PERFORM SEVERE PENANCES AND WIN MY LORD.



SATI SOON GREW UP.



HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR DAUGHTER IS. SHE SHOULD BE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE TO ONE WHO IS HER EQUAL.

ONLY THE WORTHIER ONE IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS SHALL BECOME HER HUSBAND.

A FEW DAYS LATER, BRAHMA AND THE SAGE NARADA CAME TO VISIT DAKSHA.



MY CHILD, PAY OBEISANCE TO THE REVERED ONES.

SHE BEGAN BY FASTING AND CHANTING SACRED MANTRAS.

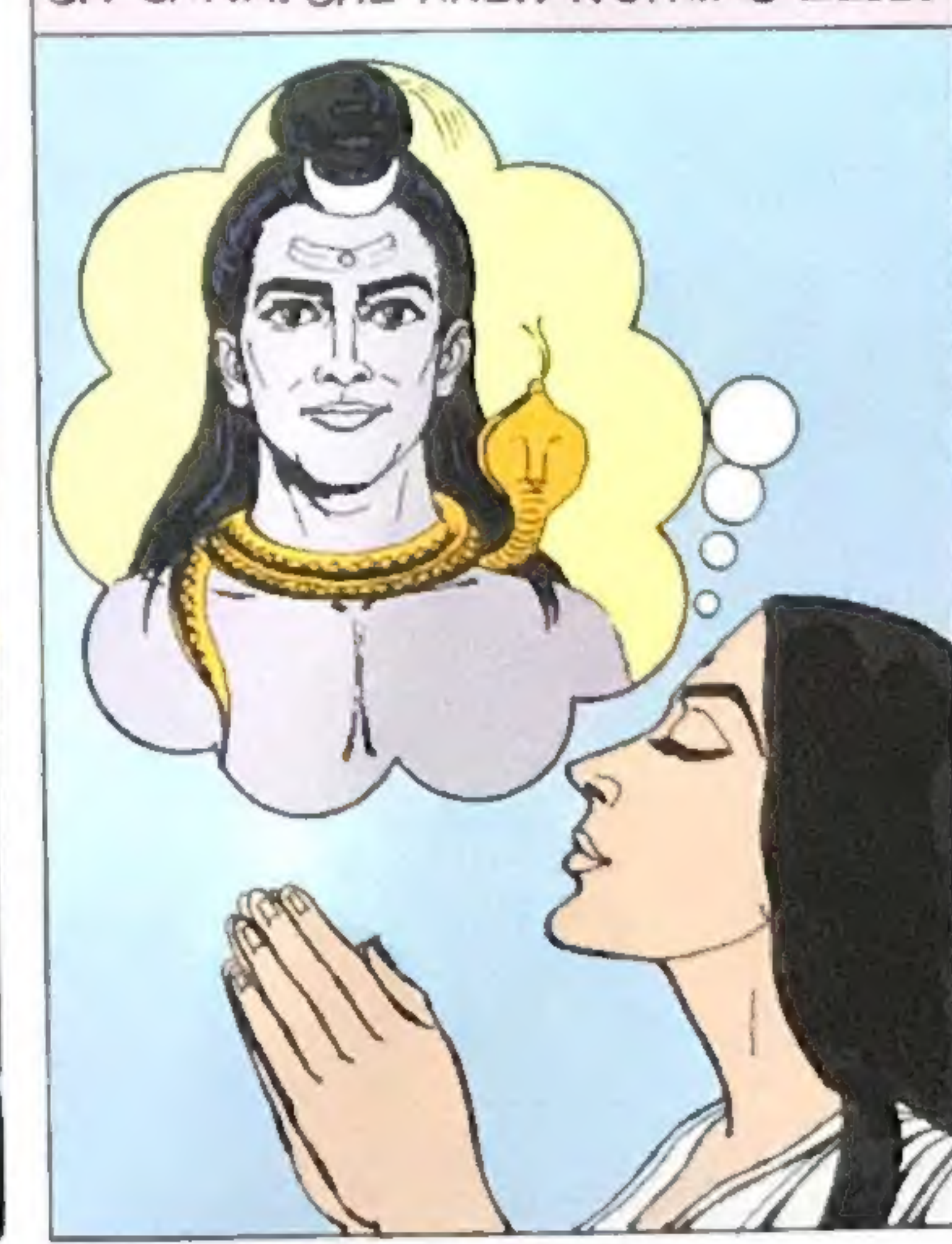


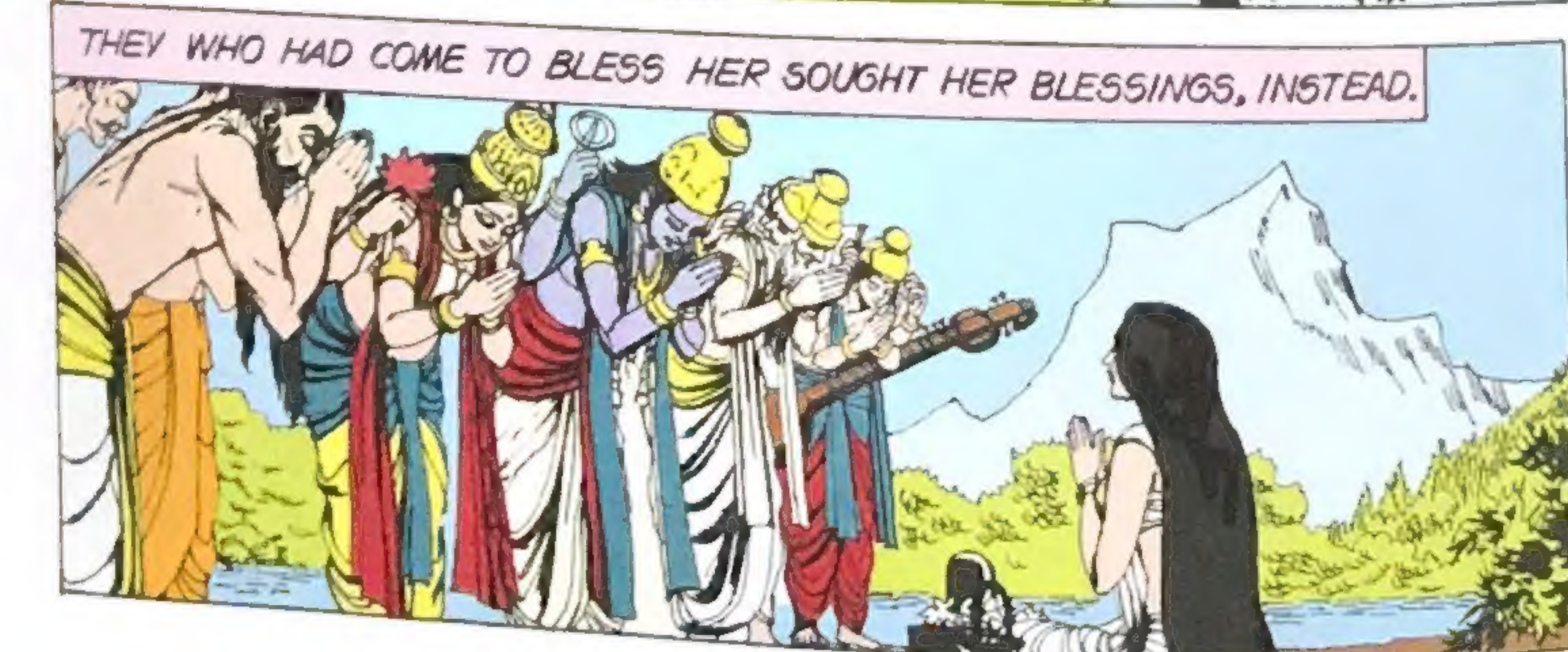
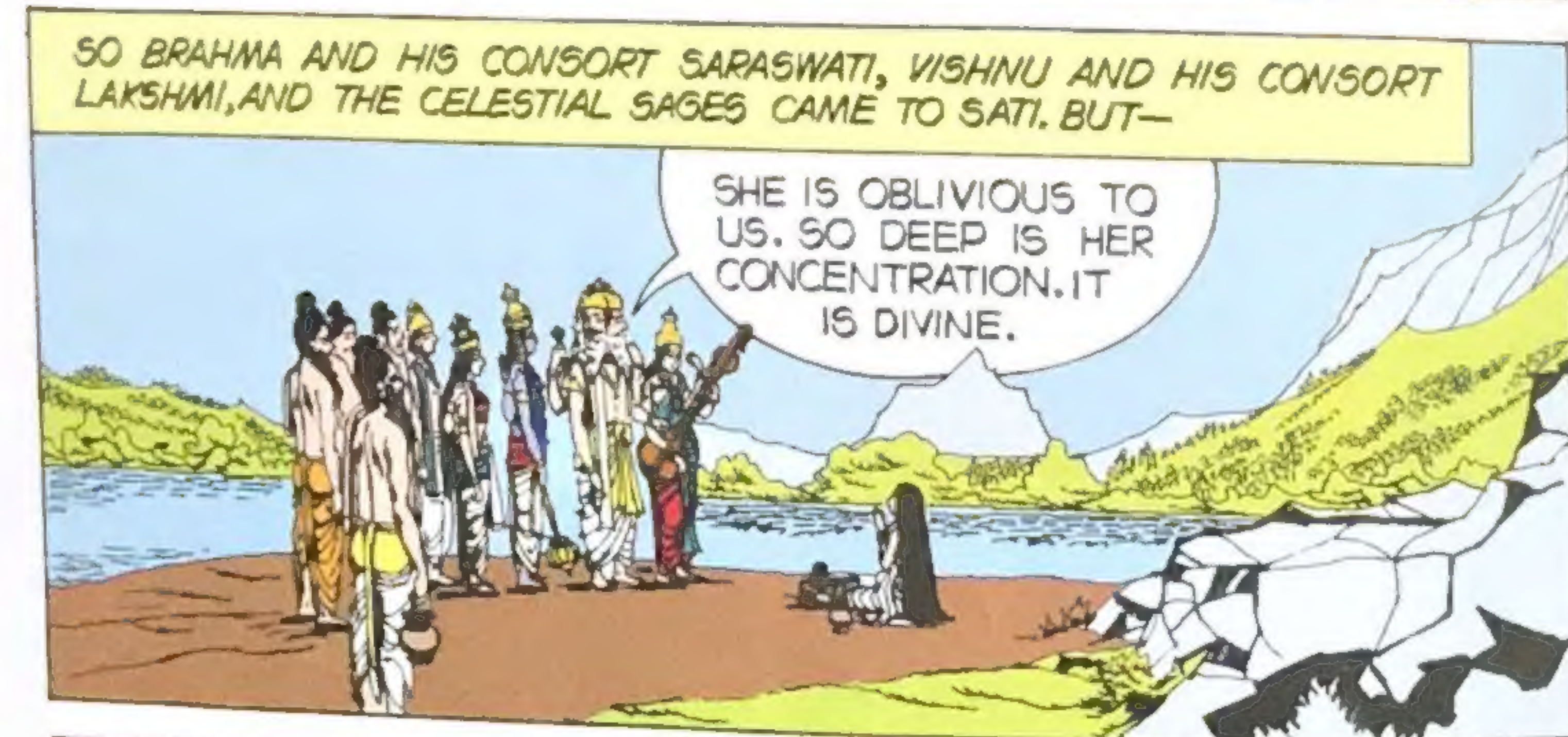
THEN, IN DRIPPING WET CLOTHES, SHE WORSHIPPED HIM ON THE BANK OF A RIVER.

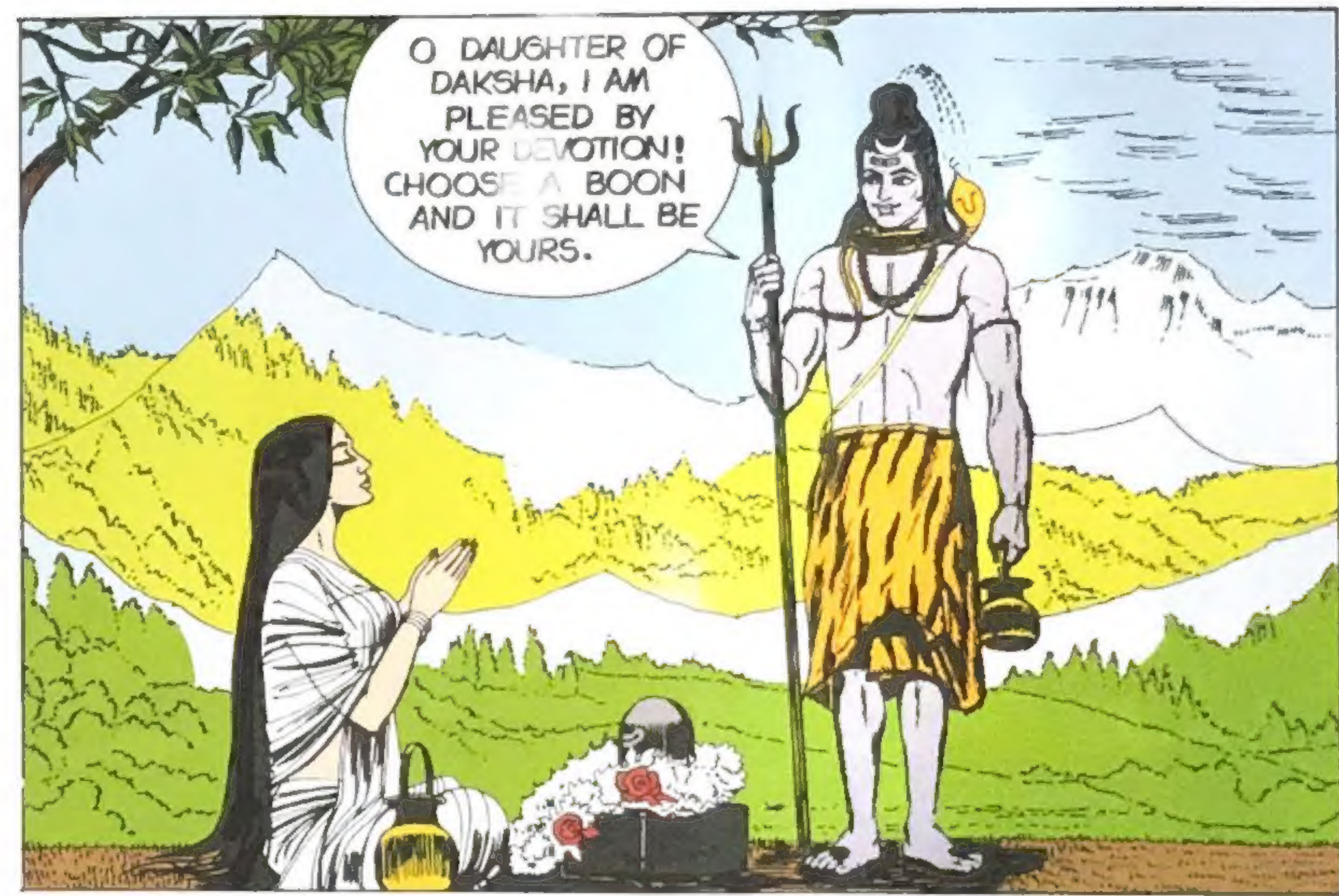
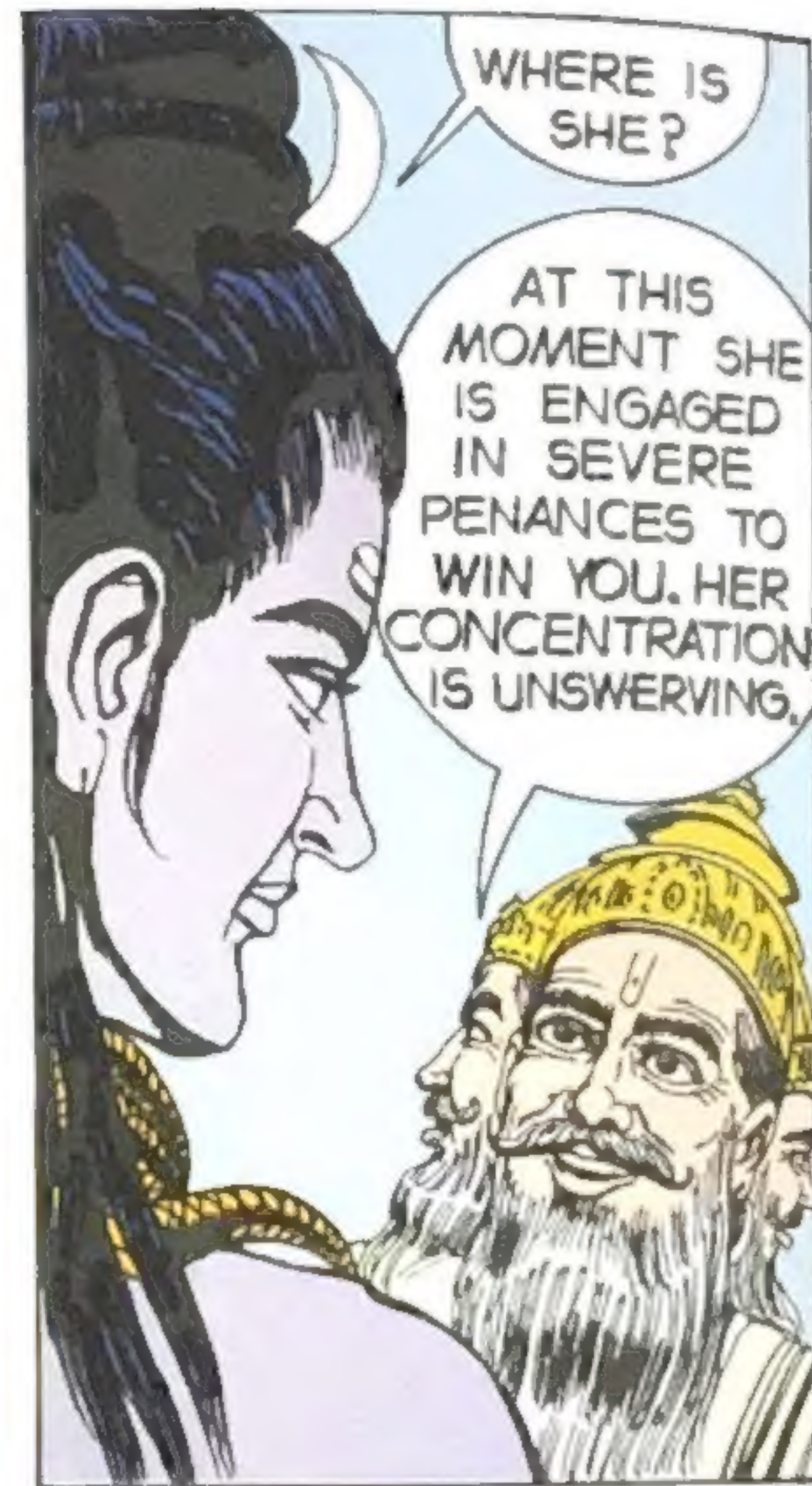


MY LORD, COME TO ME AND FULFIL MY DESTINY.

HER WHOLE BEING WAS CONCENTRATED ON SHIVA. SHE KNEW NOTHING ELSE.







BUT SHIVA DID NOT LET HER COMPLETE HER QUESTION.



BE MY CONSORT, SATI.

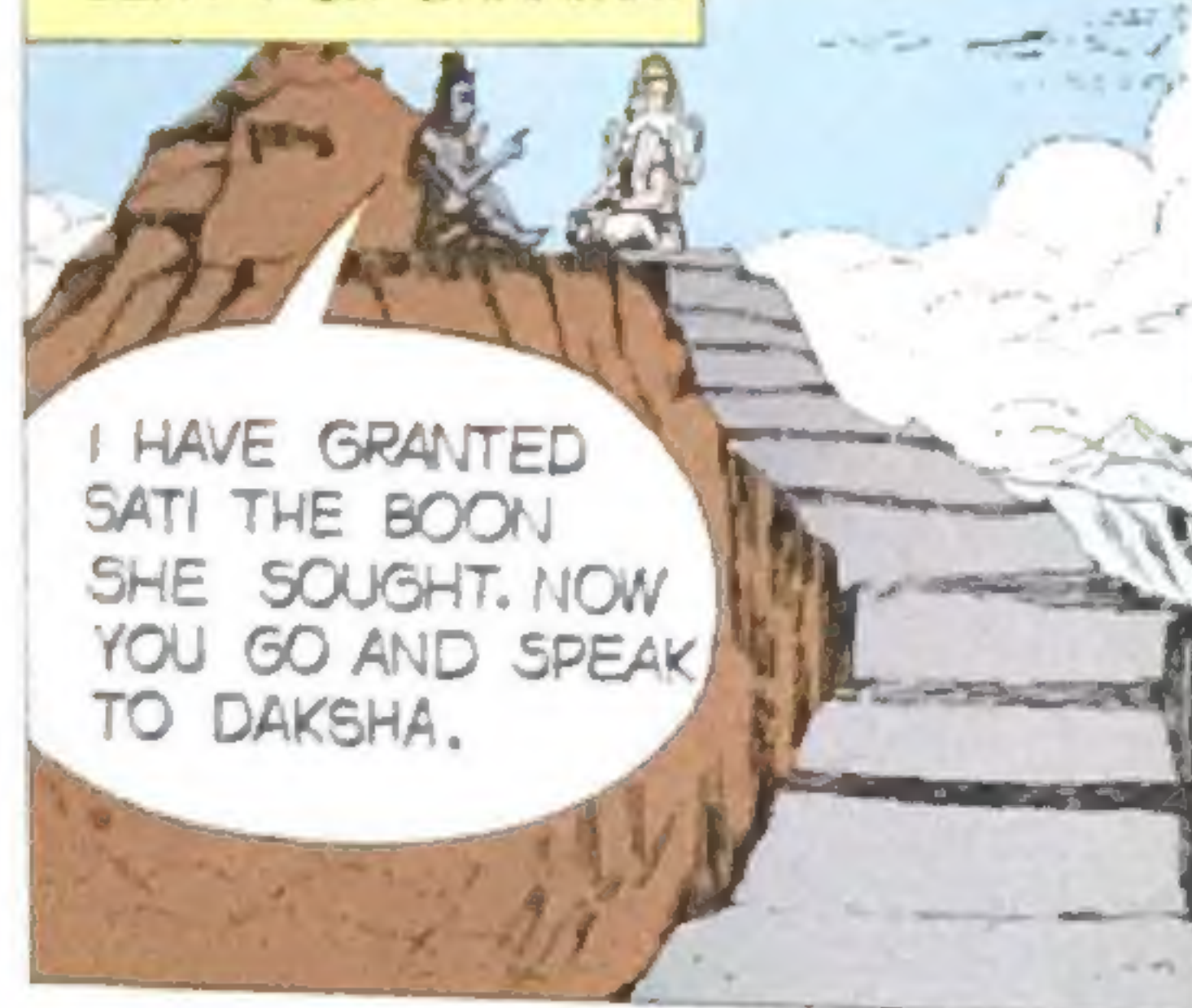
FOR A WHILE SATI STOOD SMILING SWEETLY AT HIM. THEN—

LORD, PLEASE TAKE ME WITH THE CONSENT AND THE BLESSINGS OF MY FATHER.



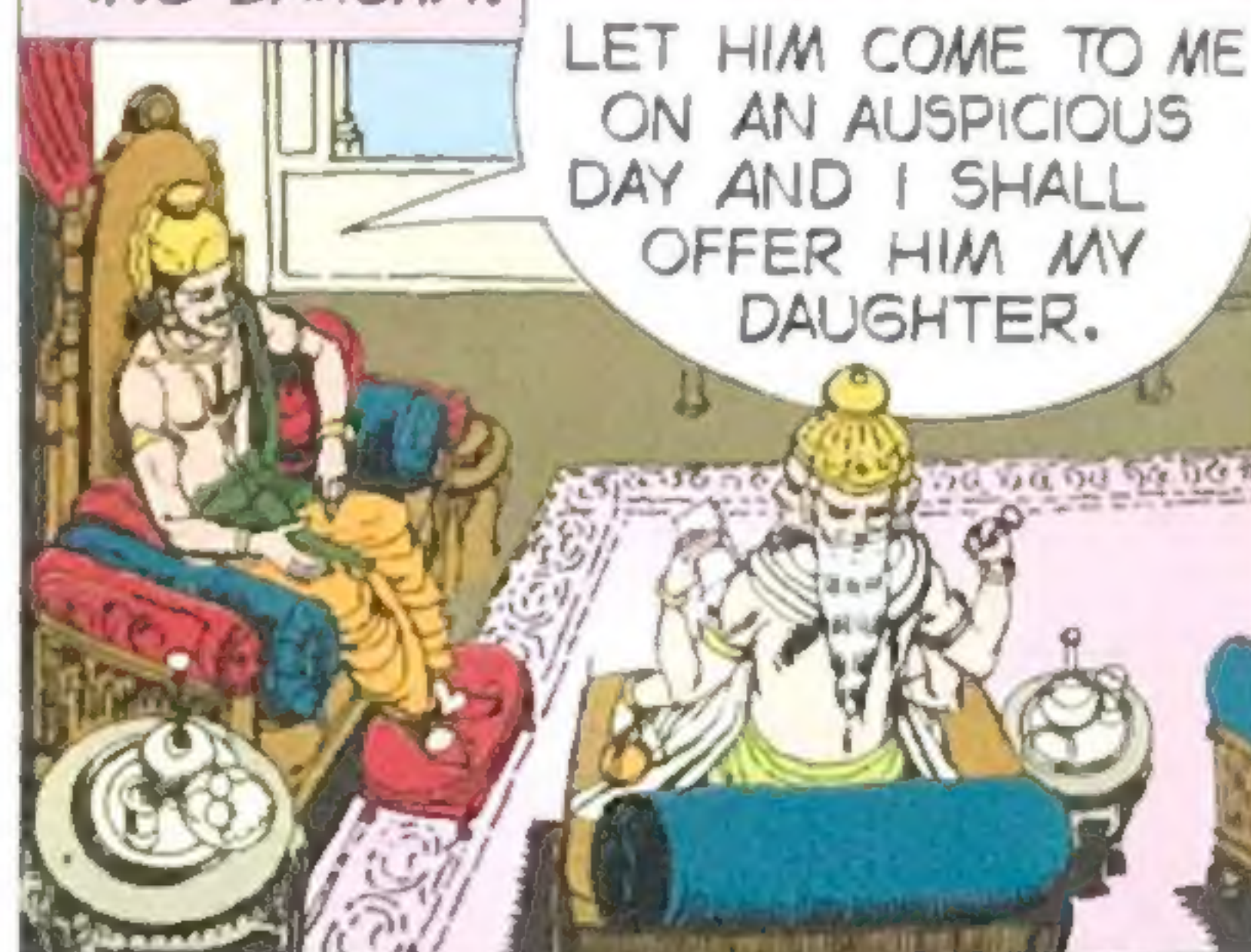
SO BE IT!

WHEN SHIVA REACHED KAILAS, HE SENT FOR BRAHMA.



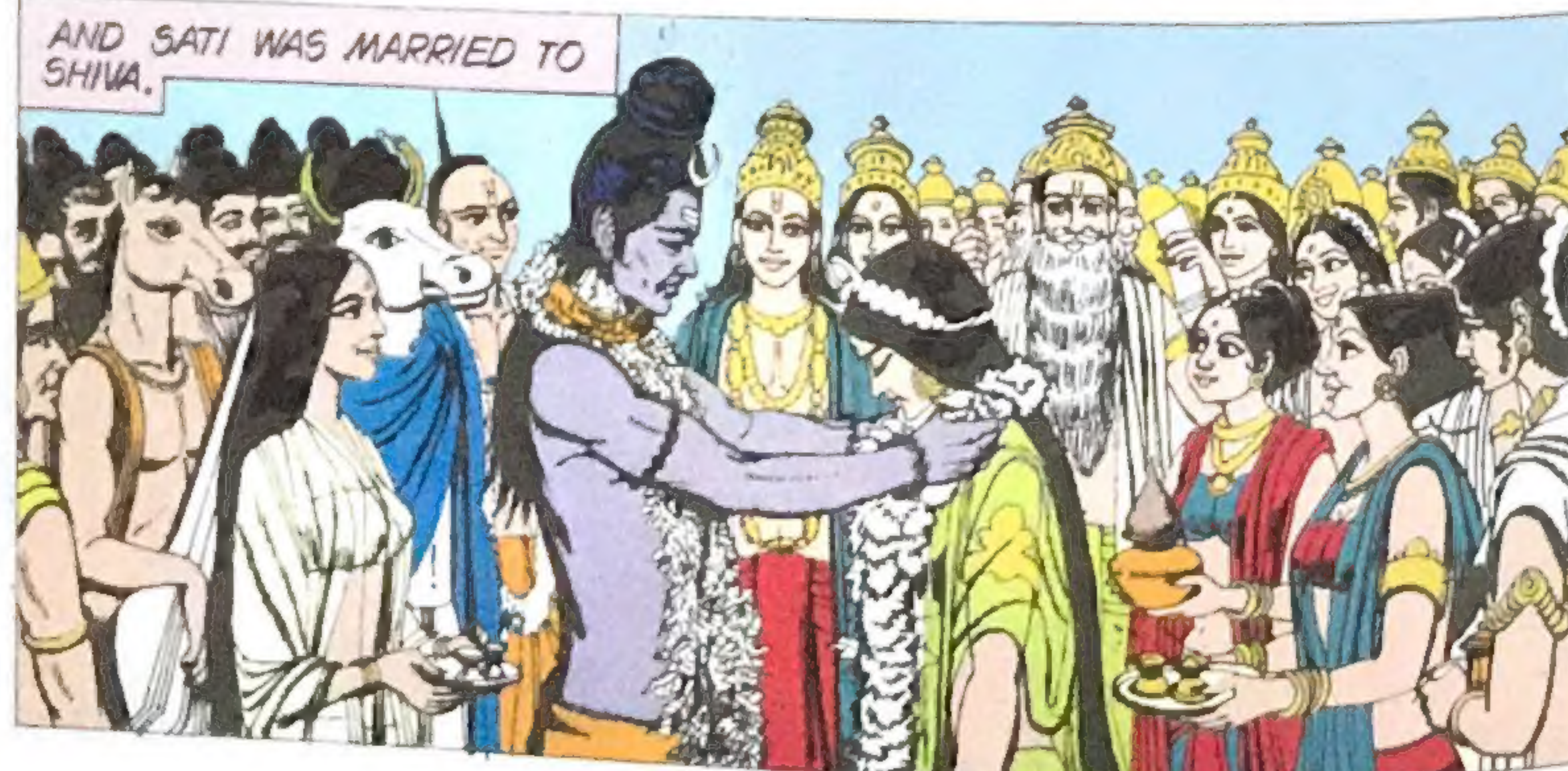
I HAVE GRANTED SATI THE BOON SHE SOUGHT. NOW YOU GO AND SPEAK TO DAKSHA.

BRAHMA SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING DAKSHA.



LET HIM COME TO ME ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY AND I SHALL OFFER HIM MY DAUGHTER.

AND SATI WAS MARRIED TO SHIVA.



AFTER THE WEDDING, SHIVA TOOK SATI TO KAILAS WHERE THEY SPENT MANY A HAPPY DAY.



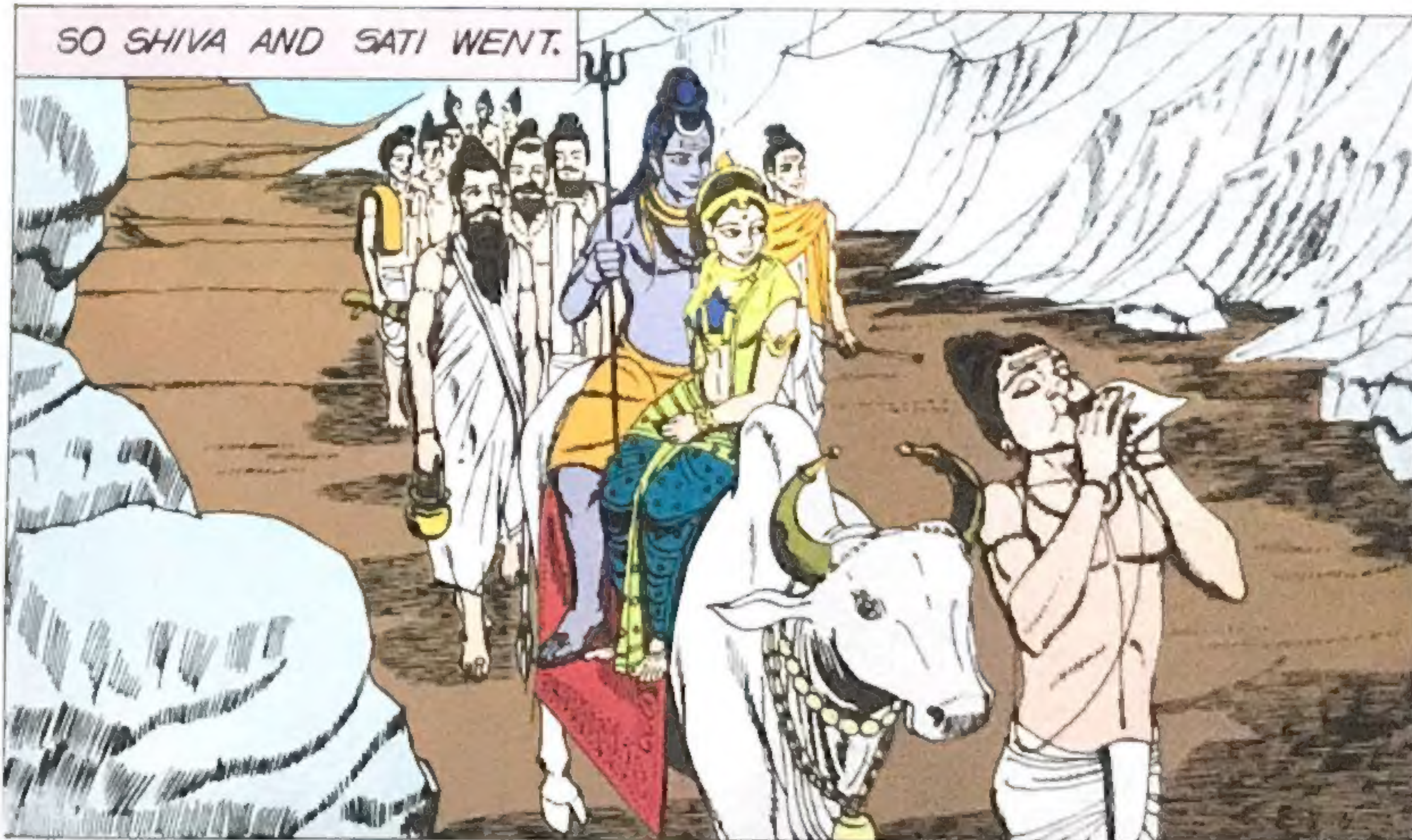
THEN ONE DAY—



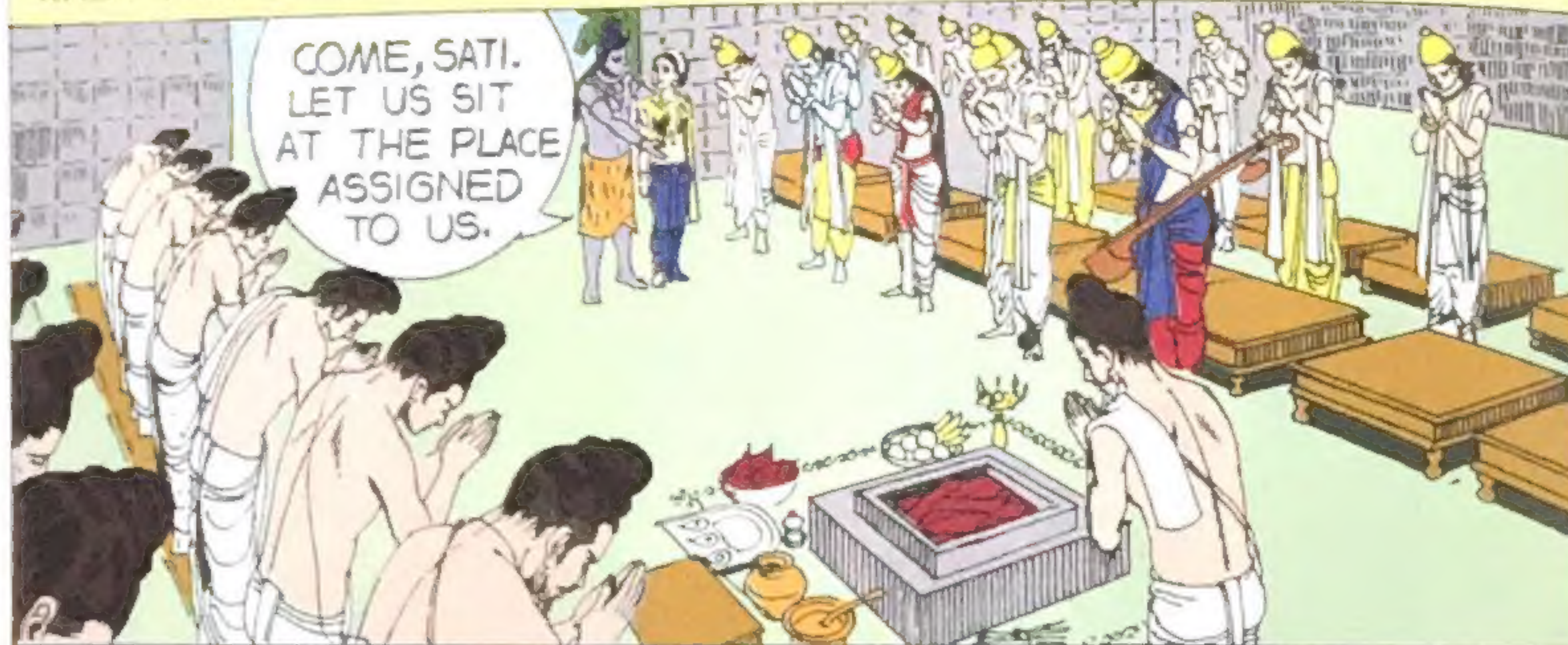
THE SAGES AT PRAYAG ARE PERFORMING A GRAND YAGNA. ALL THE CELESTIAL BEINGS HAVE BEEN INVITED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?

I WOULD, MY LORD!

SO SHIVA AND SATI WENT.



WHEN THEY ENTERED THE GROUNDS, THE DEVAS AND SAGES BOWED TO THEM.

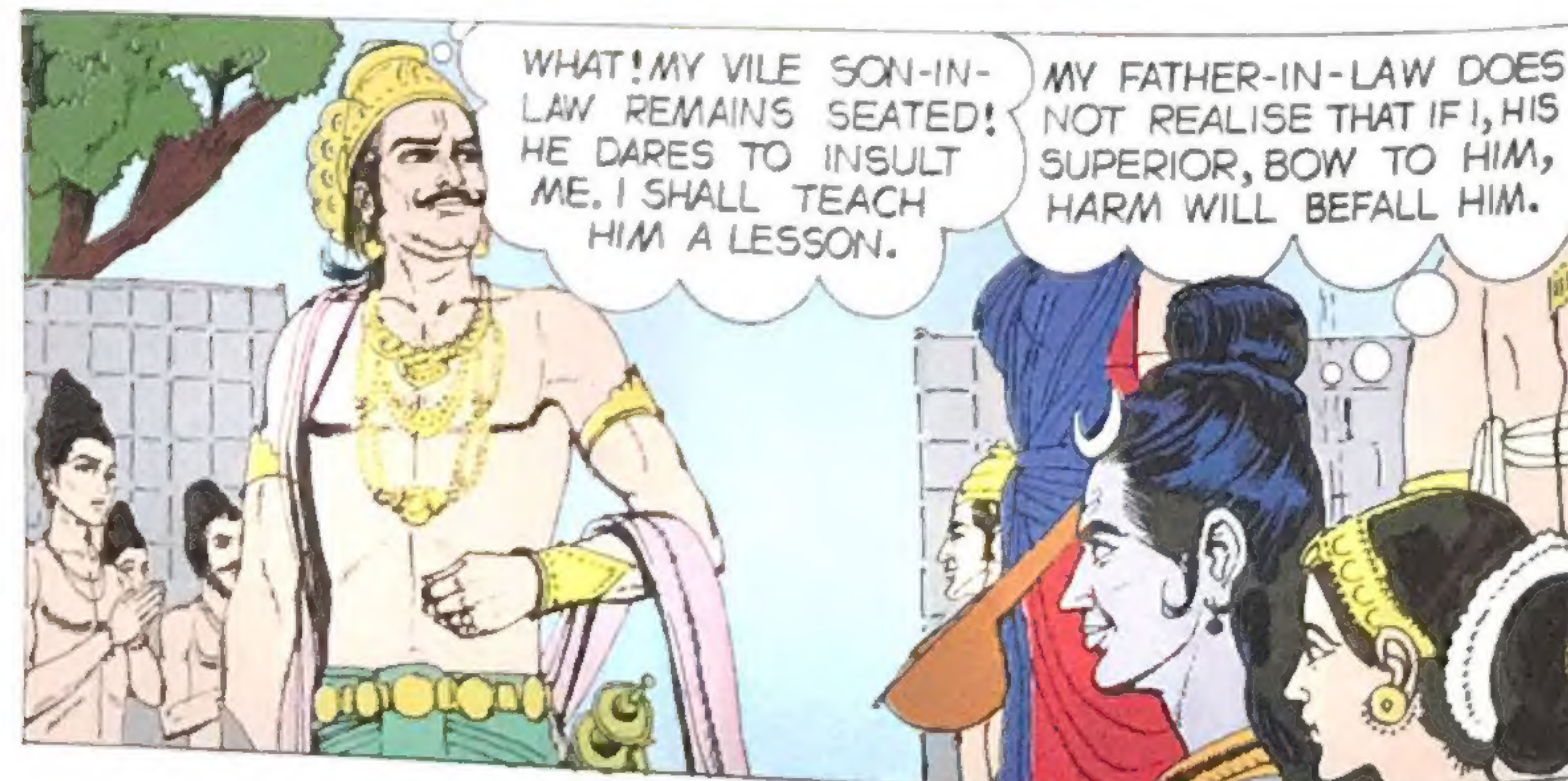


COME, SATI.
LET US SIT
AT THE PLACE
ASSIGNED
TO US.

AS SOON AS THEY WERE SEATED, DAKSHA ENTERED.



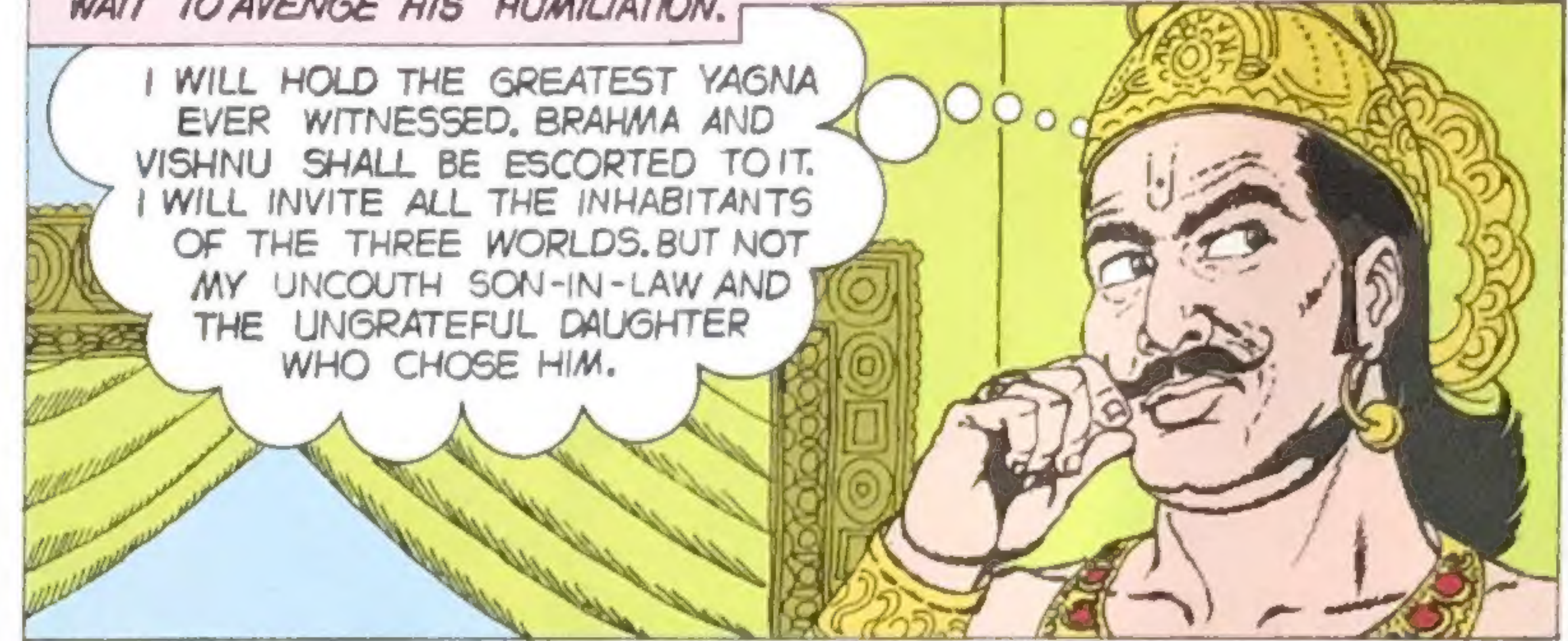
HA! THEY
RECOGNISE ME
AS THE CHIEF
PRAJAPATI.



WHAT! MY VILE SON-IN-
LAW REMAINS SEATED!
HE DARES TO INSULT
ME. I SHALL TEACH
HIM A LESSON.

MY FATHER-IN-LAW DOES
NOT REALISE THAT IF I,
HIS SUPERIOR, BOW TO HIM,
HARM WILL BEFALL HIM.

AFTER THE SACRIFICE WHEN DAKSHA REACHED HIS ABODE, HE COULD HARDLY
WAIT TO AVENGE HIS HUMILIATION.



I WILL HOLD THE GREATEST YAGNA
EVER WITNESSED. BRAHMA AND
VISHNU SHALL BE ESCORTED TO IT.
I WILL INVITE ALL THE INHABITANTS
OF THE THREE WORLDS. BUT NOT
MY UNCOUTH SON-IN-LAW AND
THE UNGRATEFUL DAUGHTER
WHO CHOSE HIM.

A FEW DAYS LATER—



WHERE ARE
THEY GOING
IN SUCH HASTE—AND
DECKED IN THEIR
FINEST ATTIRE?

I'LL
FIND
OUT.

WHEN SHE LEARNT THAT THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO DAKSHA'S GRAND YAGNA—



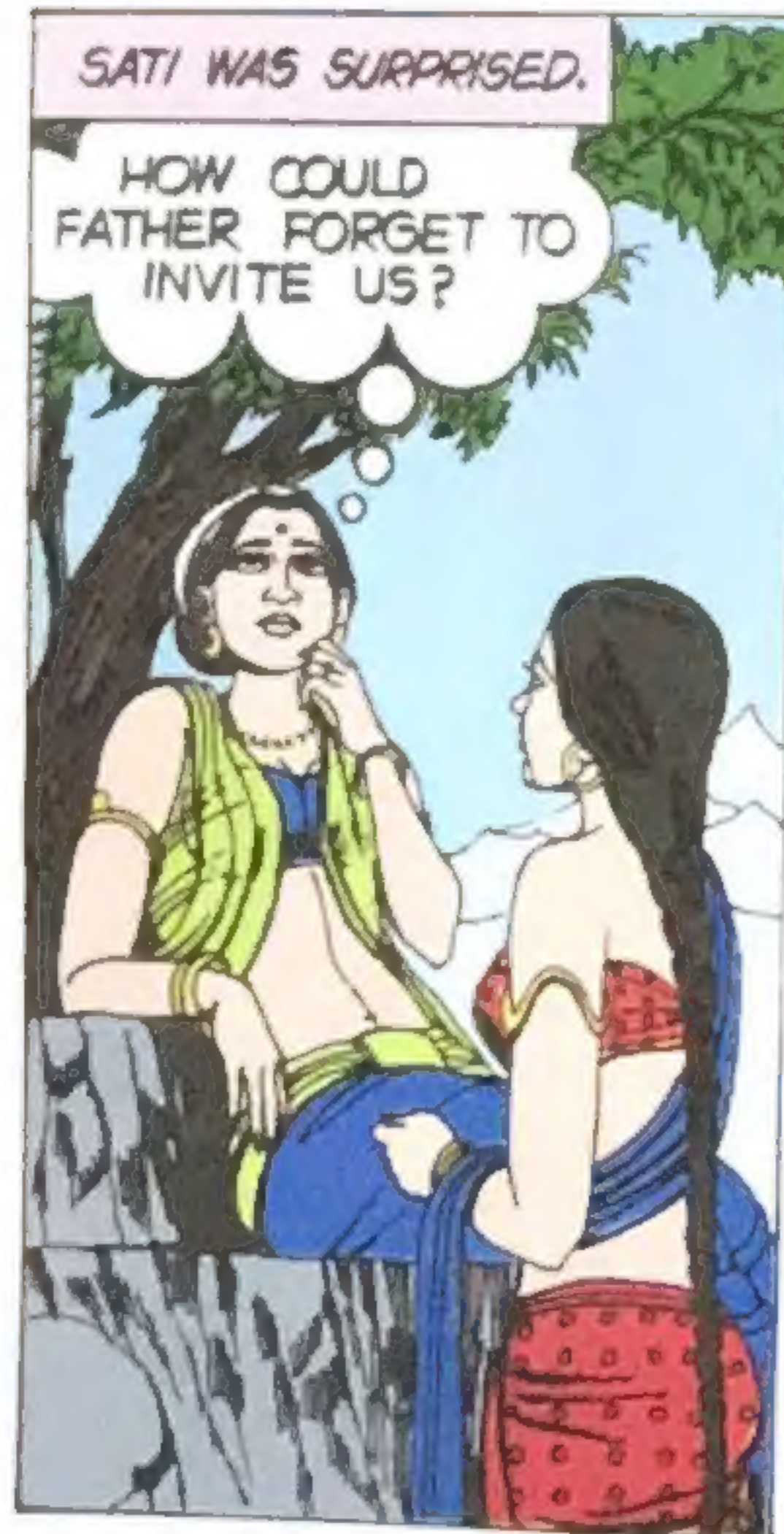
SHE RETURNED TO SATI.

THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO A GRAND YAGNA, YOUR FATHER IS PERFORMING.



SATI WAS SURPRISED.

HOW COULD FATHER FORGET TO INVITE US?



SHE WENT TO SHIVA AND TOLD HIM ABOUT THE SACRIFICE.



SHIVA LOOKED LOVINGLY AT HER.



SHIVA KNEW THAT NO GOOD WOULD COME OF HER VISIT. BUT SHE WAS HIS EQUAL.

BUT SATI PERSISTED.

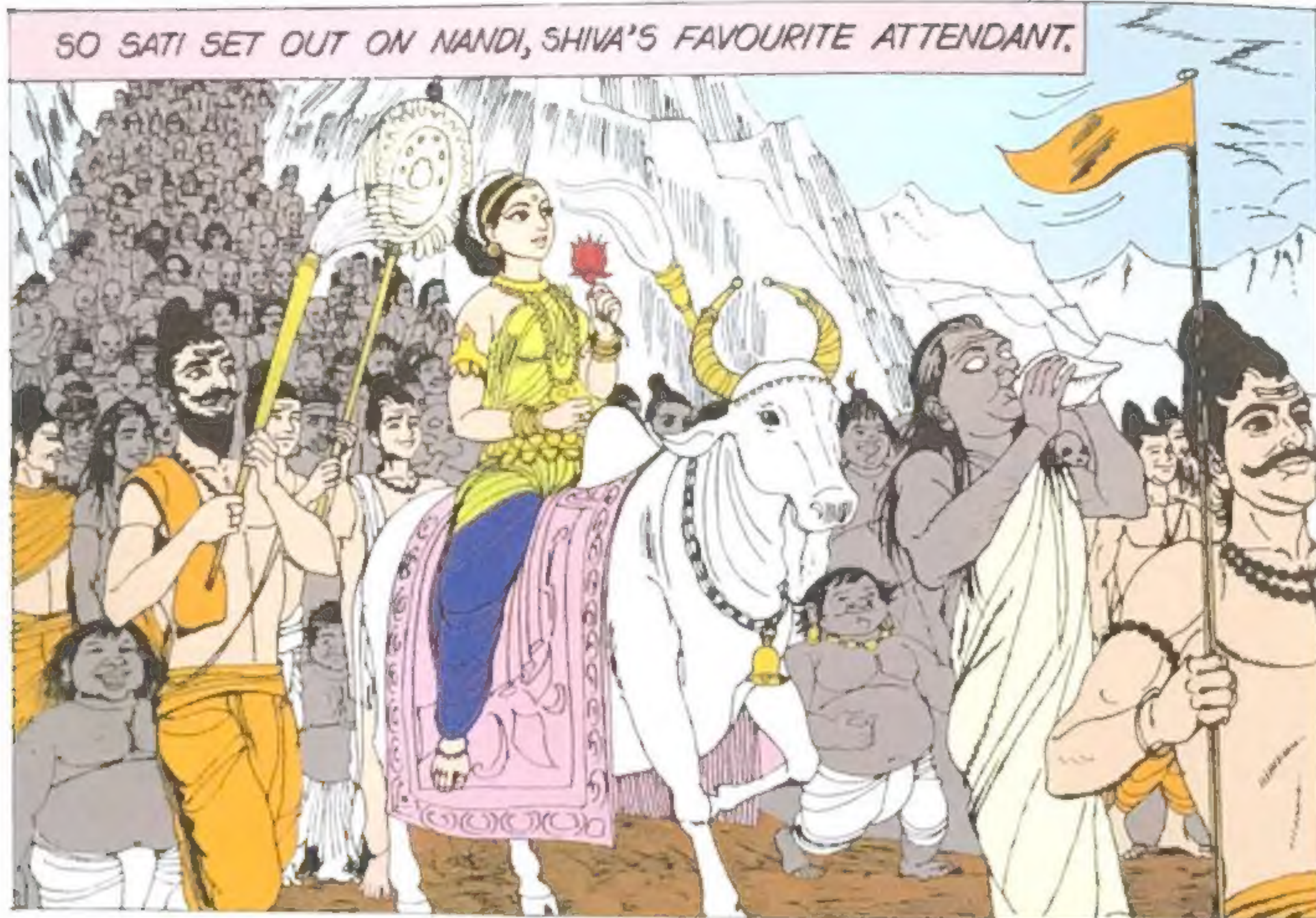
ALL THE SAME I WOULD LIKE TO GO.



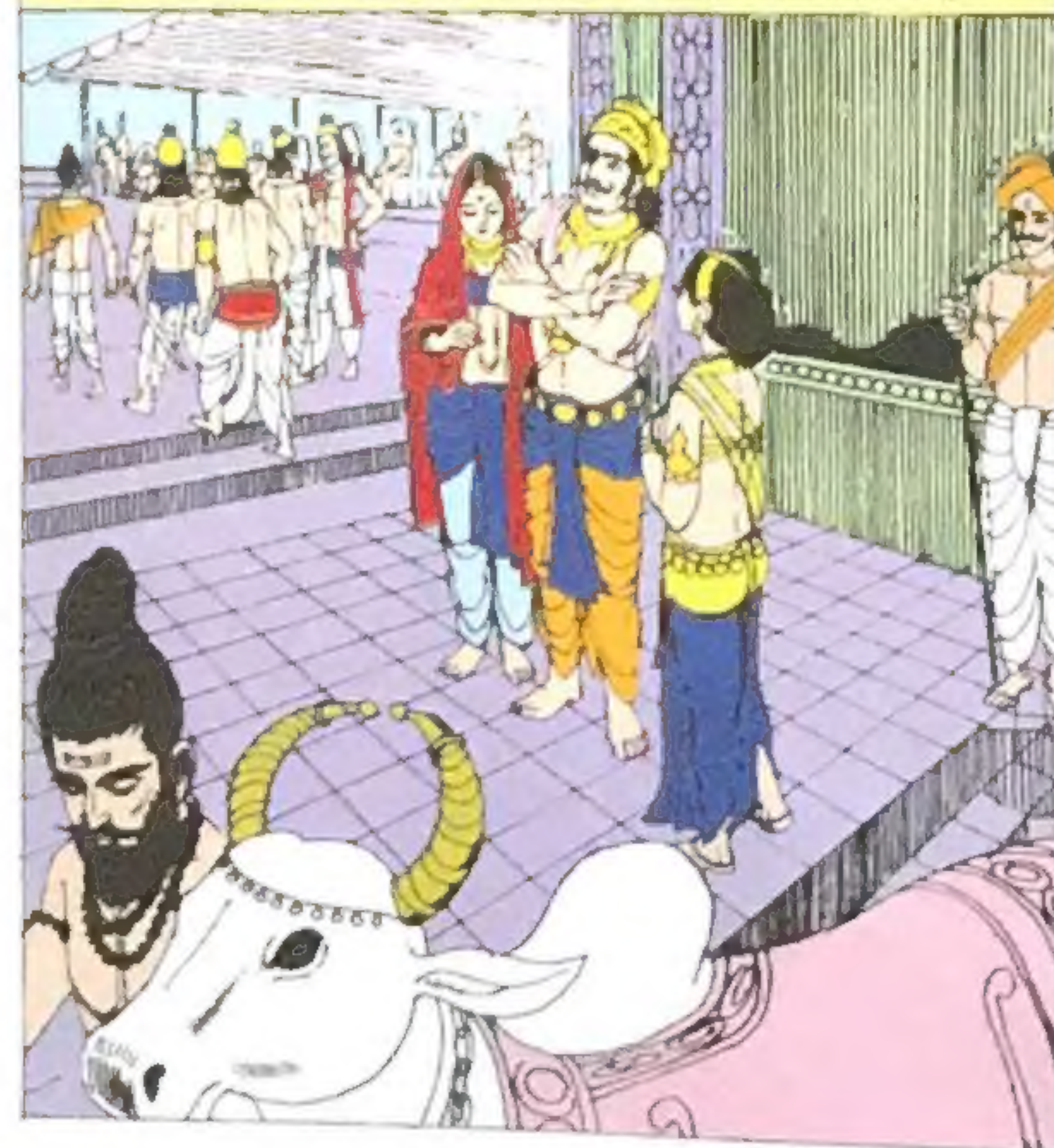
I WILL NOT COME. BUT IF YOU REALLY MUST GO, I WILL WILLINGLY SEND YOU—AND IN ROYAL SPLENDOR. NANDI, MY ATTENDANT, WILL CARRY YOU THERE.



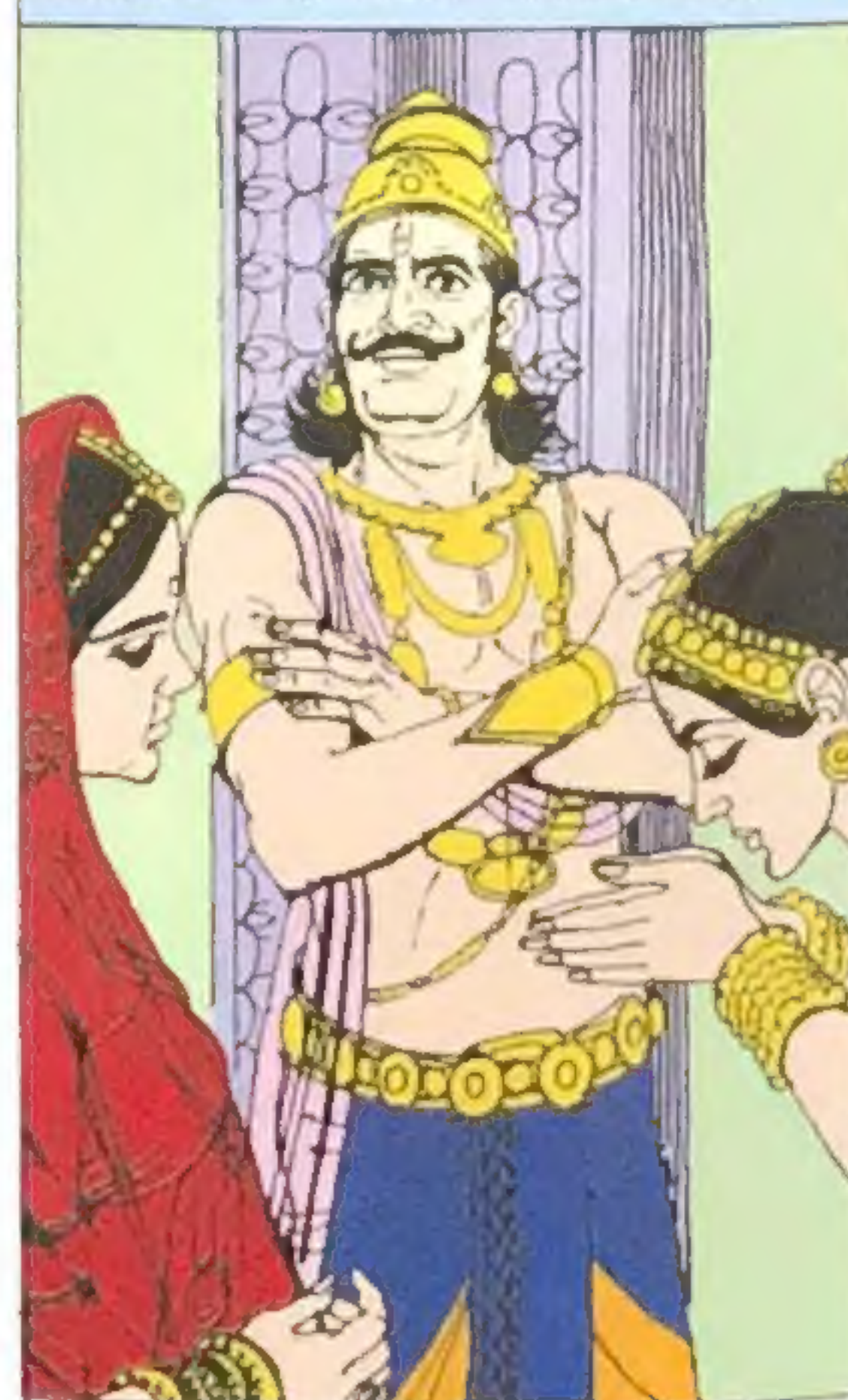
SO SATI SET OUT ON NANDI, SHIVA'S FAVOURITE ATTENDANT.



AT THE GATES OF DAKSHA'S ABODE, SATI DISMOUNTED AND WALKED UP TO HER FATHER. BUT HE IGNORED HER PRESENCE.



YET SATI, EVER DUTIFUL, BOWED TO HER PARENTS.

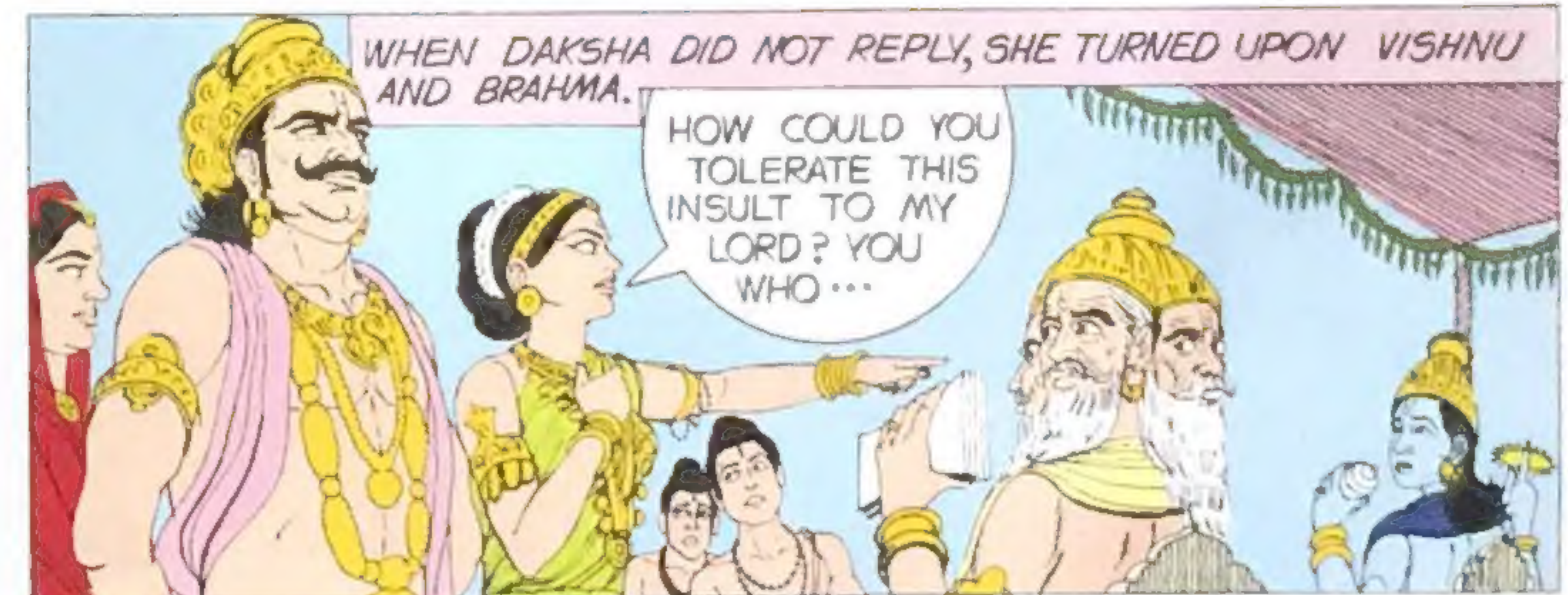


THEN—



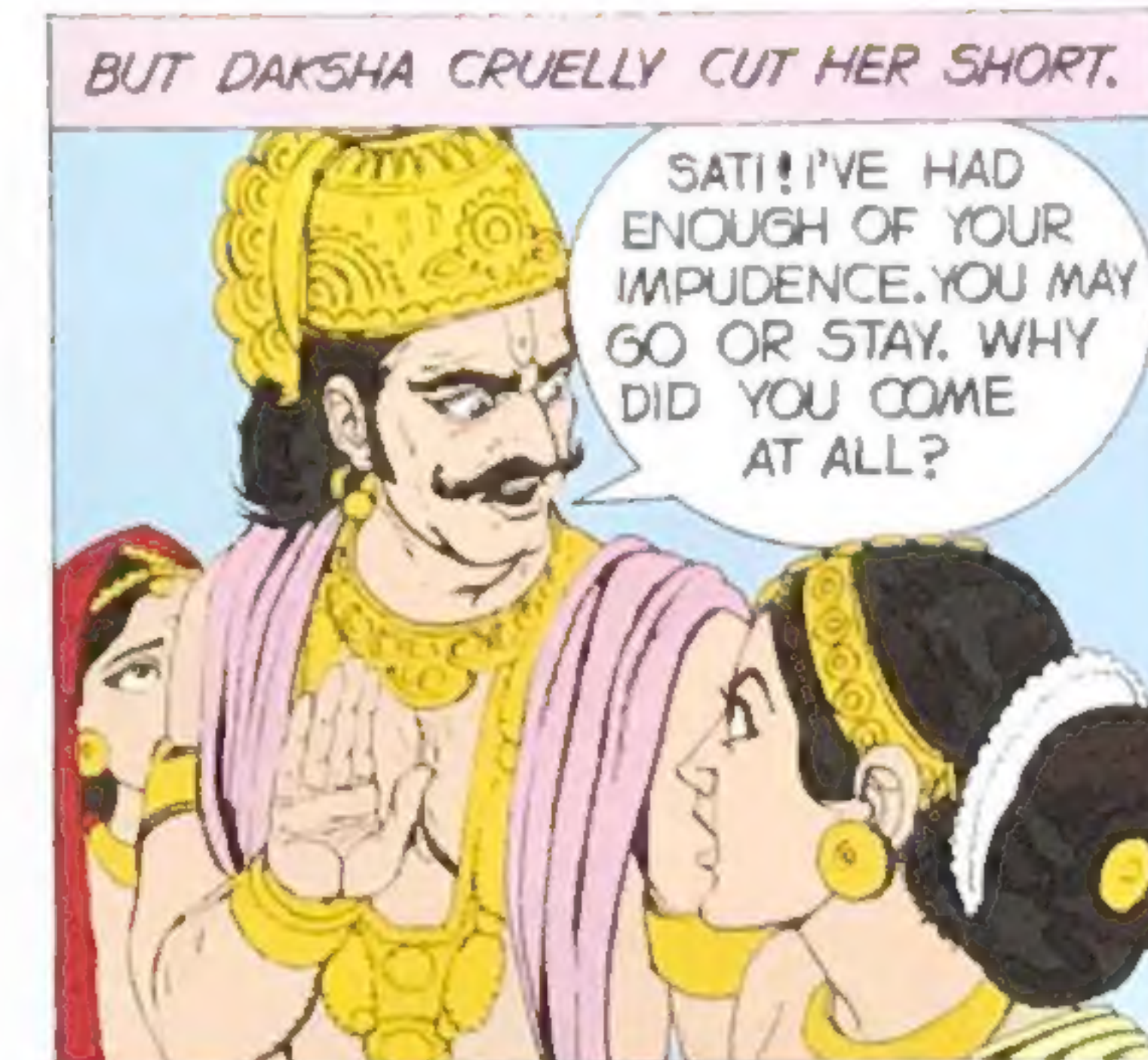
WHY WERE MY LORD AND I NOT INVITED?

WHEN DAKSHA DID NOT REPLY, SHE TURNED UPON VISHNU AND BRAHMA.



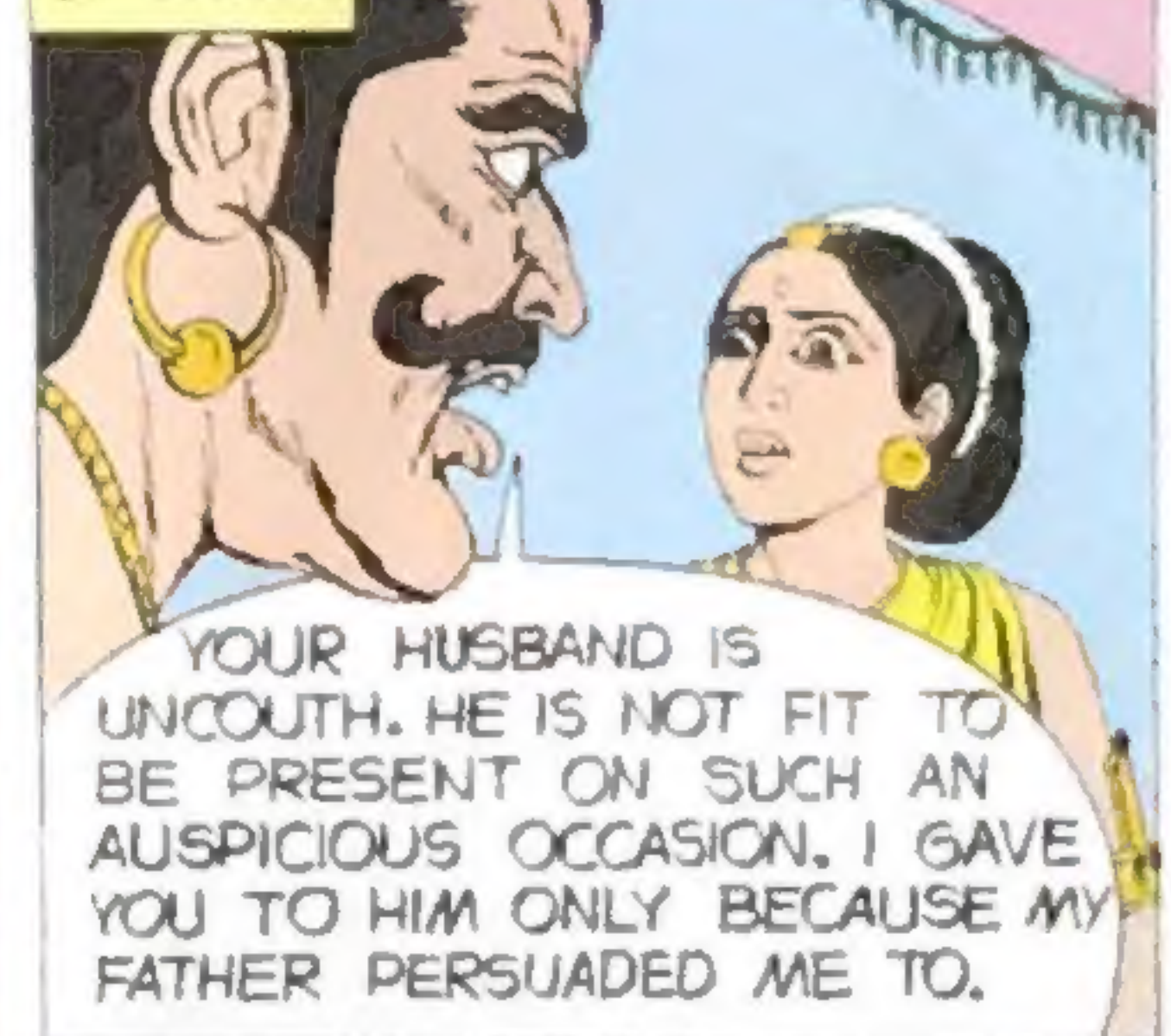
HOW COULD YOU TOLERATE THIS INSULT TO MY LORD? YOU WHO...

BUT DAKSHA CRUELLY CUT HER SHORT.



SATI! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR IMPUDENCE. YOU MAY GO OR STAY. WHY DID YOU COME AT ALL?

HIS ANGER MOUNTED AS HE SPOKE OF SHIVA.



YOUR HUSBAND IS UNCOUTH. HE IS NOT FIT TO BE PRESENT ON SUCH AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION. I GAVE YOU TO HIM ONLY BECAUSE MY FATHER PERSUADED ME TO.

THEN HE BECAME CALMER.

ANYWAY, NOW THAT YOU HAVE COME, FORGET HIM. SIT DOWN AND ACCEPT A SHARE OF THE SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS.

SATI, FOR A MOMENT, STOOD SPEECHLESS WITH SHAME AND ANGER.

WHY? OH WHY DID I INSIST ON COMING?

THEN SHE TURNED UPON HER FATHER.

YOU ARE VAIN AND WICKED, I AM ASHAMED TO CALL MYSELF YOUR DAUGHTER.

I WILL CAST OFF THIS BODY OF MINE AS A WORTHLESS CORPSE.

THEN, BECOMING CALMER, SHE FIXED HER MIND ON HER LORD.

MY LORD, I SHALL COME BACK TO YOU WHEN I AM REBORN OF A FATHER I CAN RESPECT.

AND INVOKING YOGIC FLAMES, SATI IMMOLATED HER BODY IN THEM.

ALAS! SHIVA'S BELOVED HAS GIVEN UP HER BODY.

ALAS!

ALAS!

CRUEL DAKSHA WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THIS.

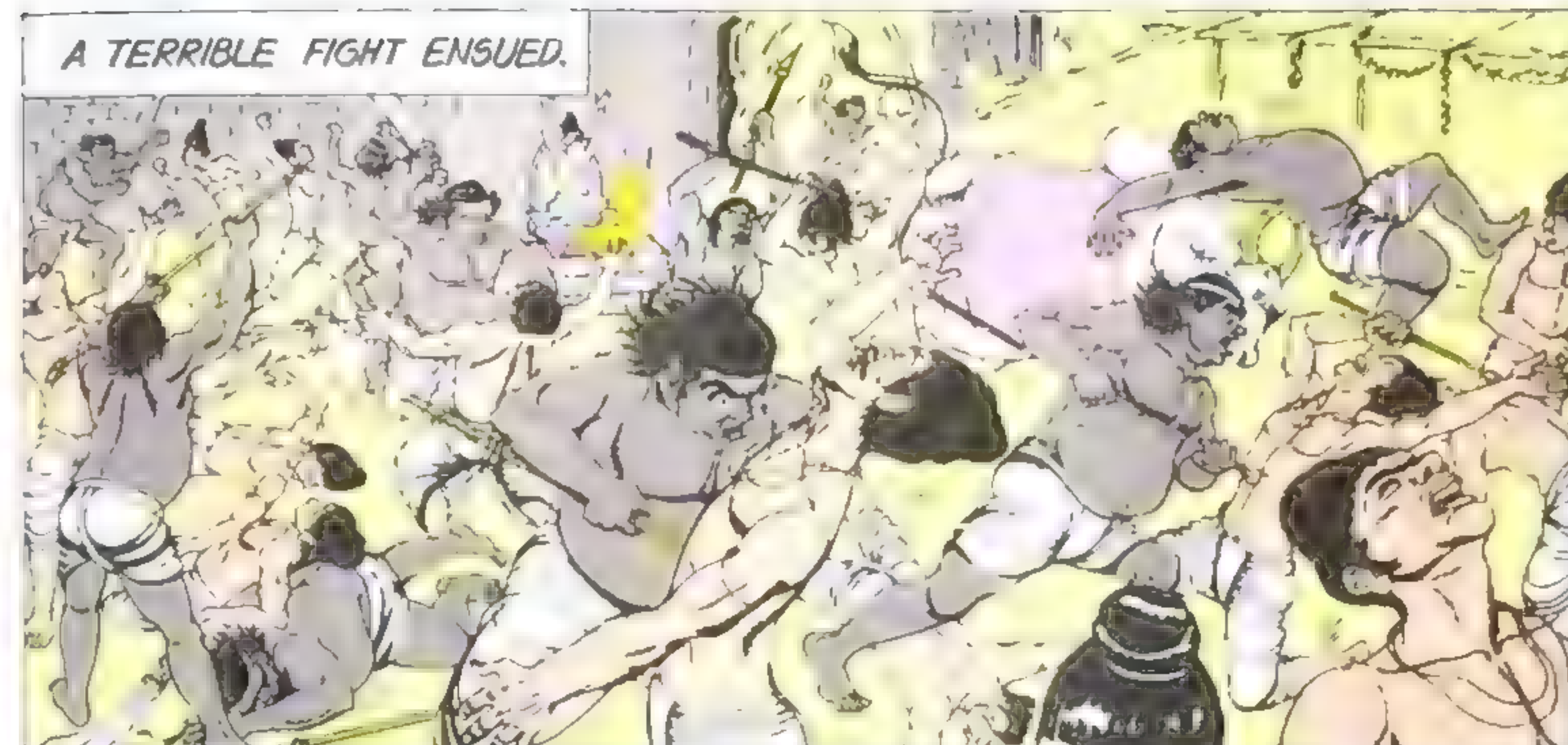
HER ATTENDANTS, WHO WERE WAITING OUTSIDE, HEARD THESE CRIES AND CHARGED IN.

FIE ON THE EVIL PRAJAPATI!

WHERE IS HE?



... AND INVOKED THOUSANDS OF POWERFUL DEMONS.

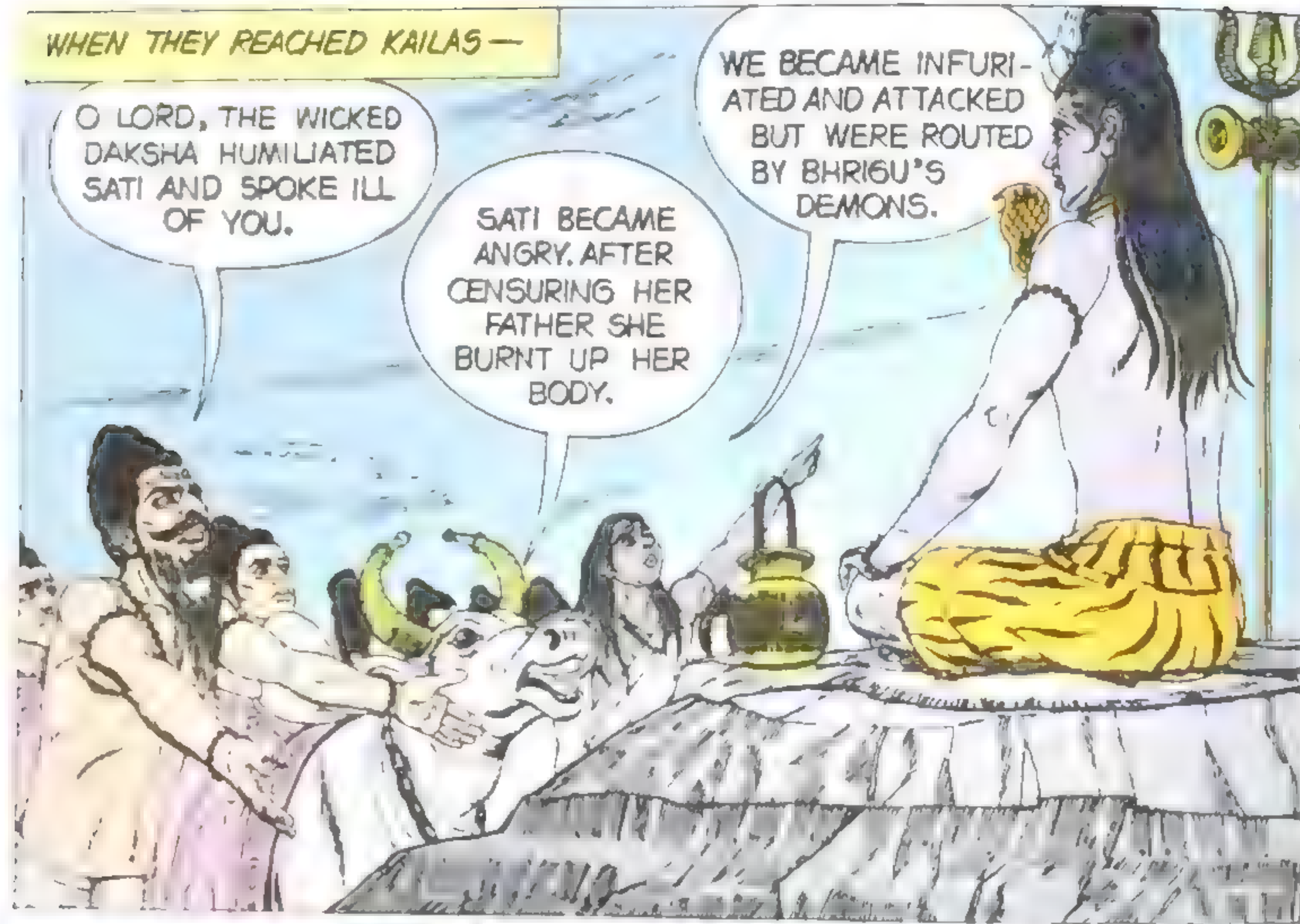


WHEN THEY REACHED KAILAS —

O LORD, THE WICKED DAKSHA HUMILIATED SATI AND SPOKE ILL OF YOU.

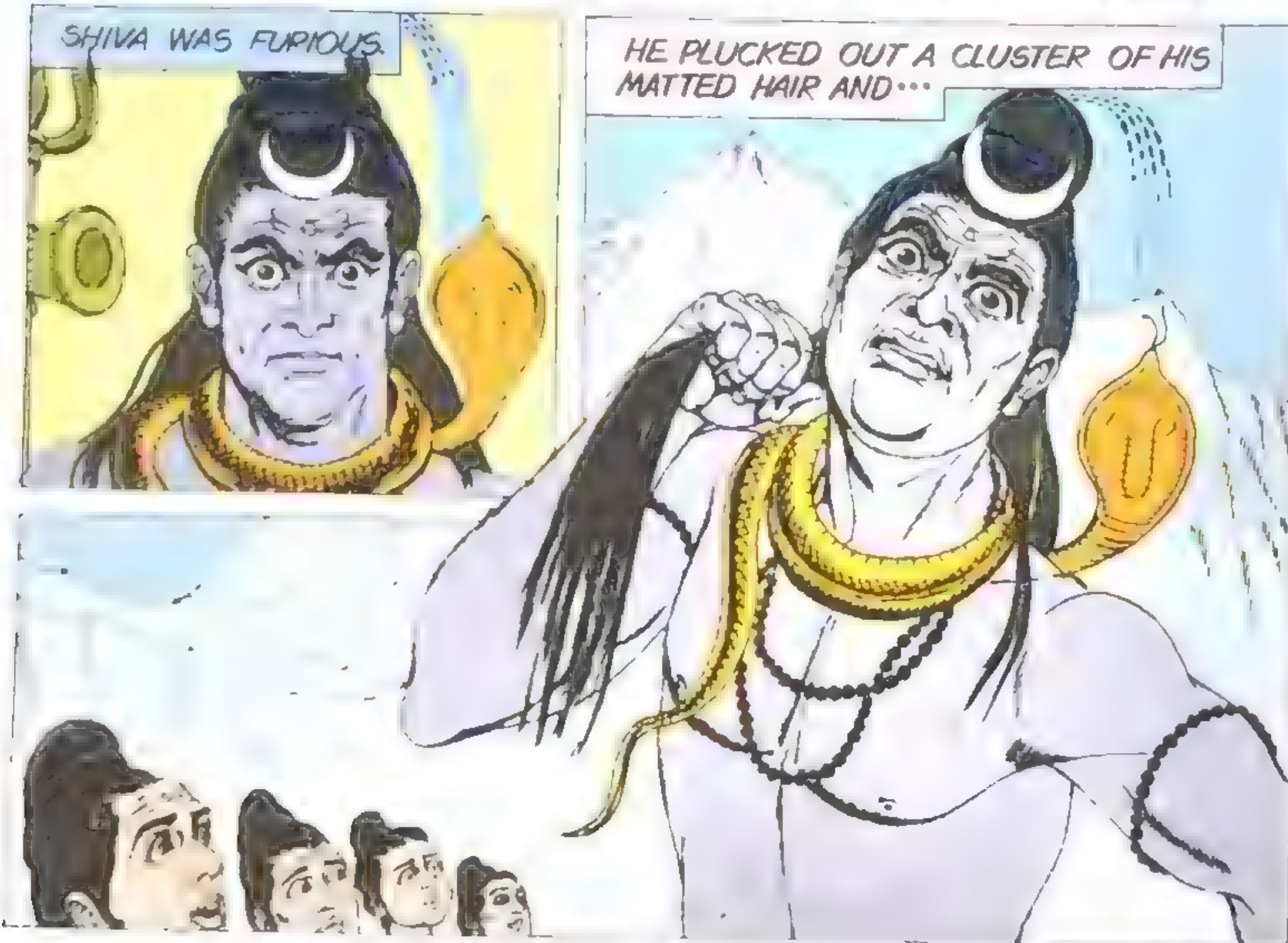
SATI BECAME ANGRY. AFTER CENSURING HER FATHER SHE BURNT UP HER BODY.

WE BECAME INFURI-ATED AND ATTACKED BUT WERE ROUTED BY BHRIGU'S DEMONS.

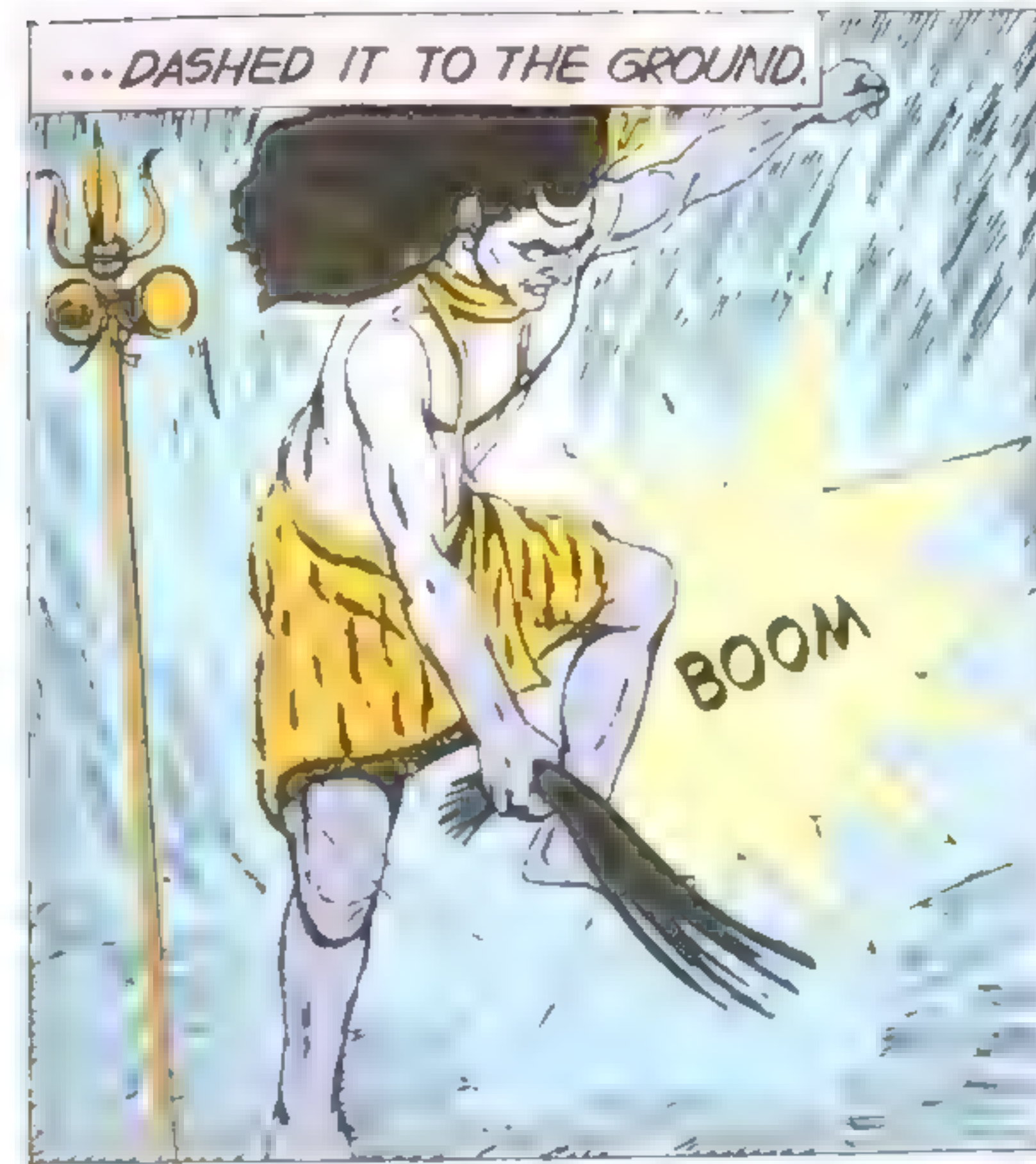


SHIVA WAS FURIOUS.

HE PLUCKED OUT A CLUSTER OF HIS MATTED HAIR AND...



...DASHED IT TO THE GROUND.



THE CLUSTER SPLIT IN TWO.



FROM ONE HALF AROSE THE POWERFUL VIRABHADRA AND...



...FROM THE OTHER THE TERRIBLE MAHAKALI.



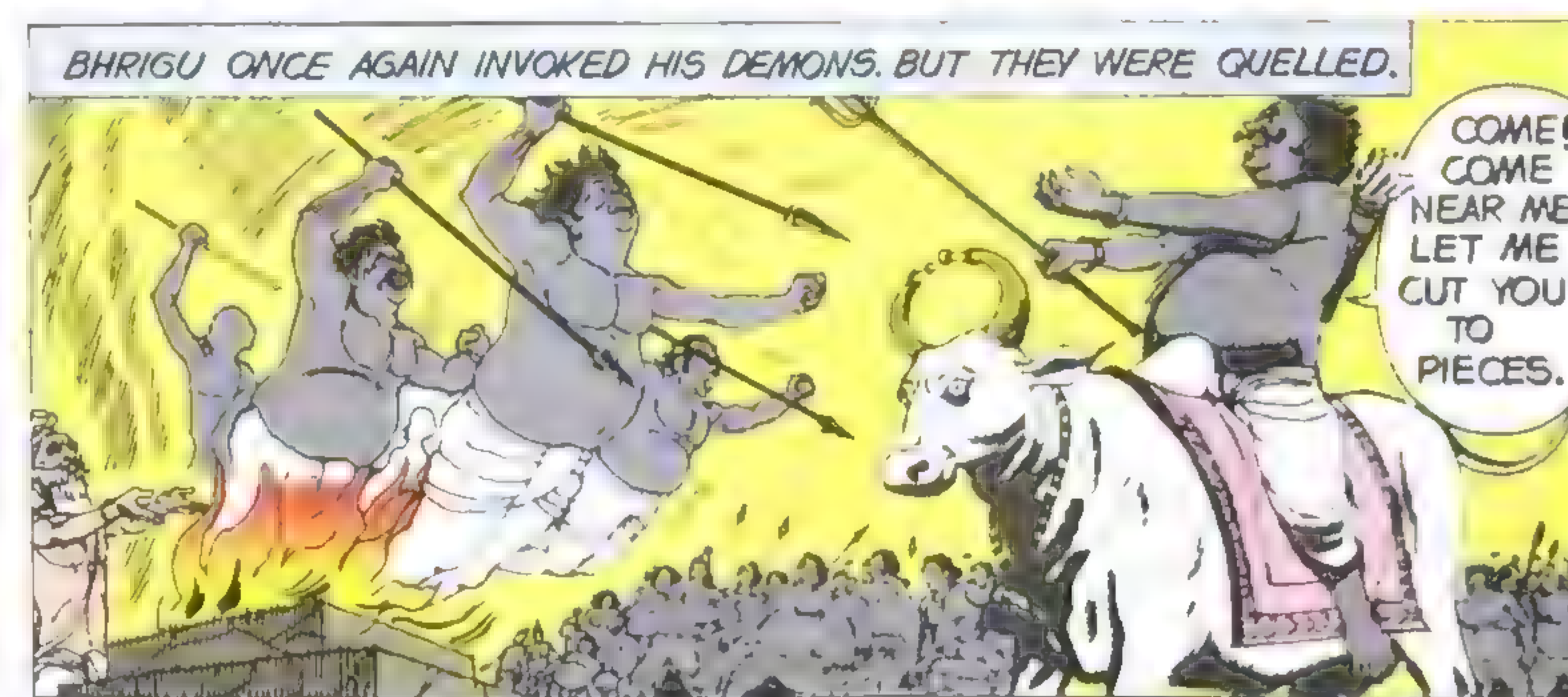
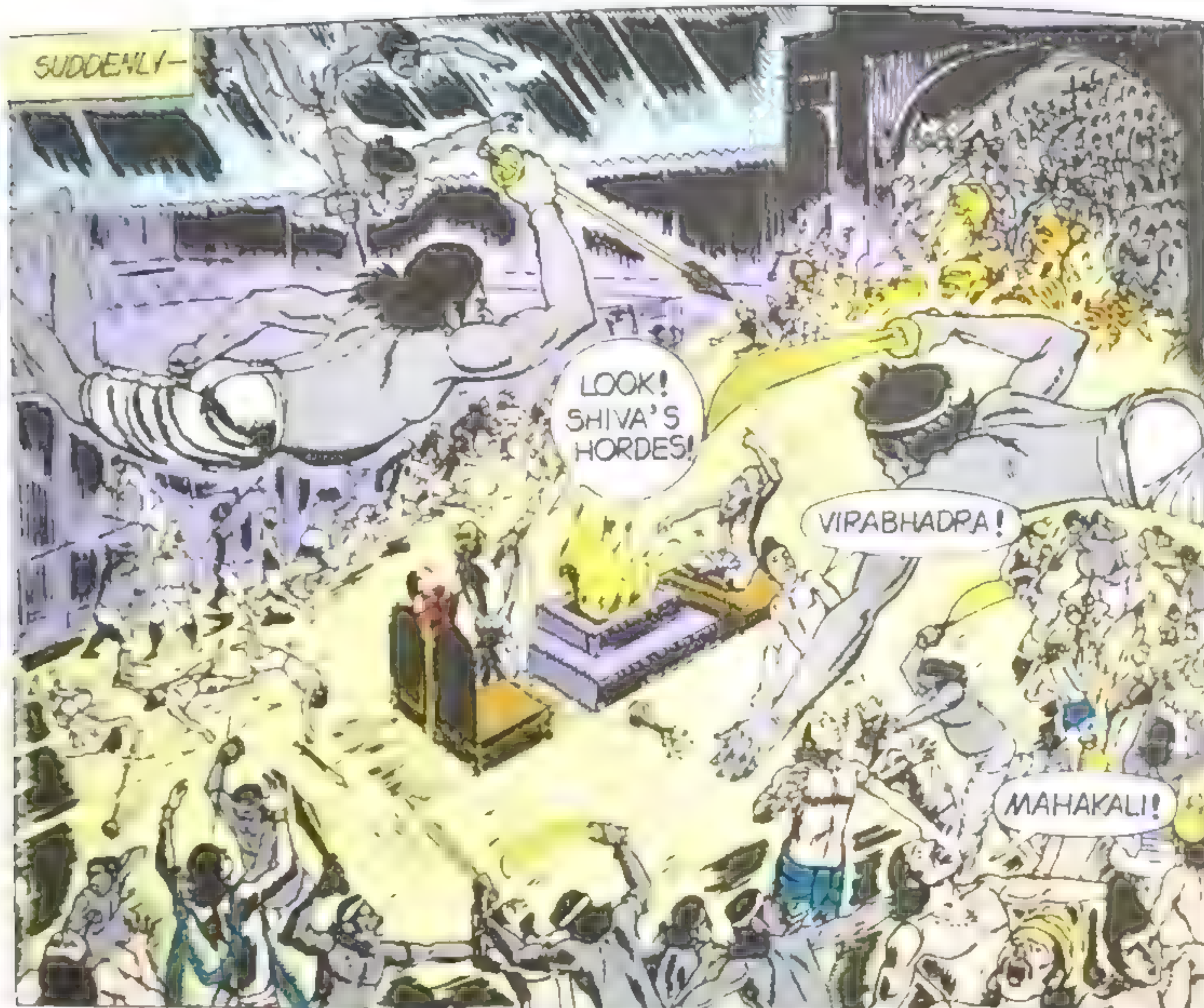


EAGER TO CARRY OUT THE COMMAND, VIRABHADRA SET OFF AT ONCE FOR DAKSHA'S ABODE WITH MAHAKALI LEADING THE HORDES.



WHILE VIRABHADRA ADVANCED, A NUMBER OF BAD OMENS WERE SEEN BY DAKSHA AND HIS GUESTS. A CELESTIAL VOICE CURSED DAKSHA.

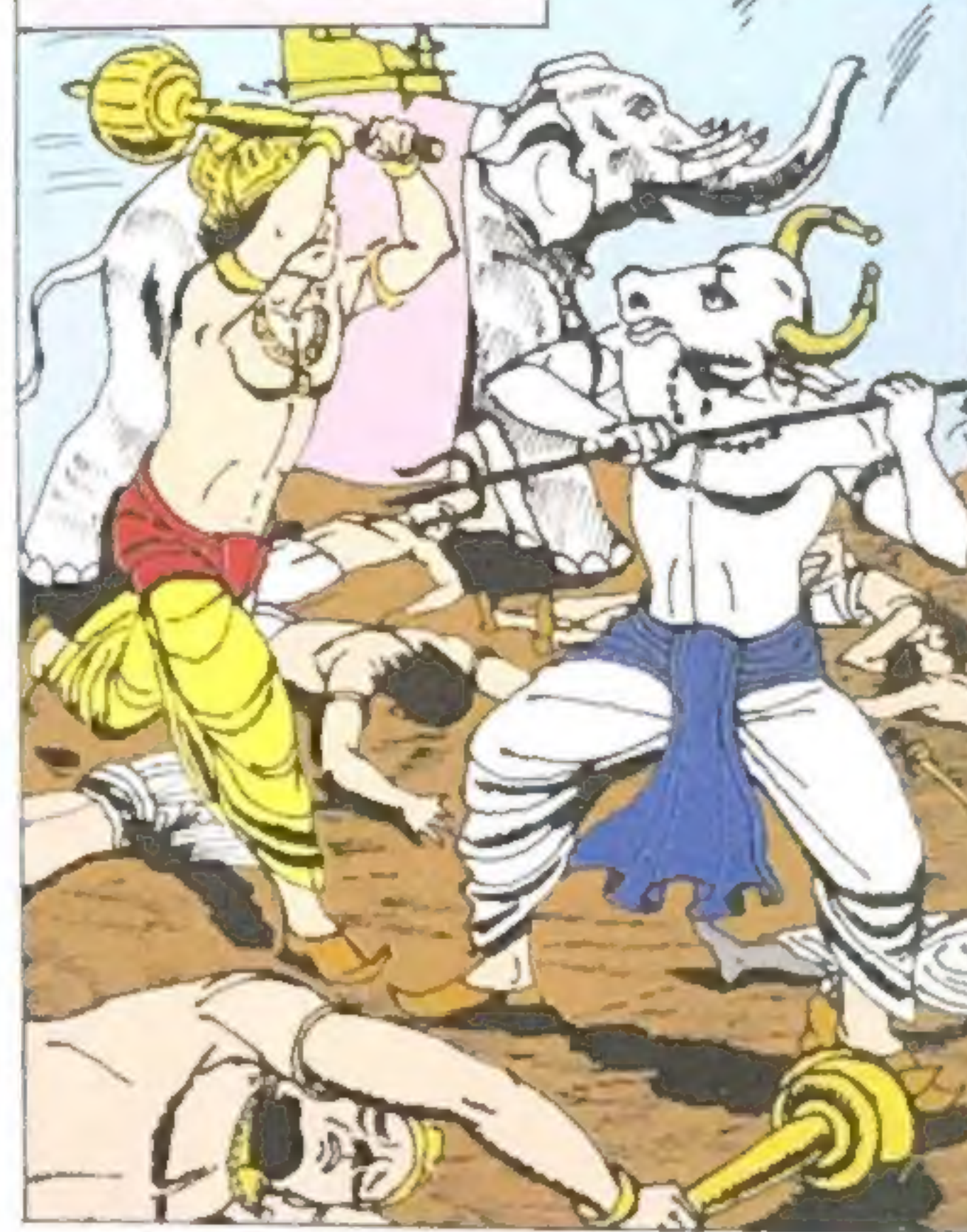




MANY OF THE DEVAS AND CELESTIAL SAGES DESERTED AND FLED TO HEAVEN.



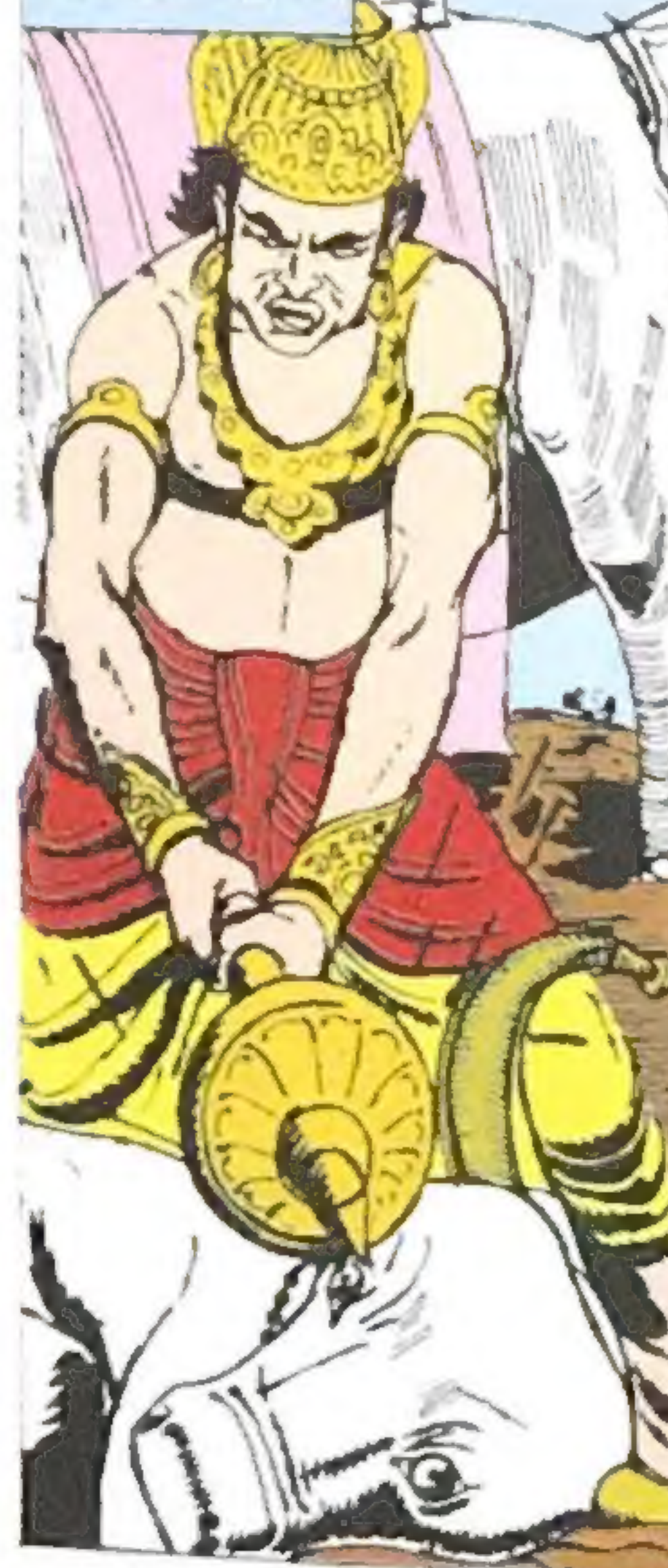
BUT INDRA DID NOT GIVE UP. HE ATTACKED NANDI.



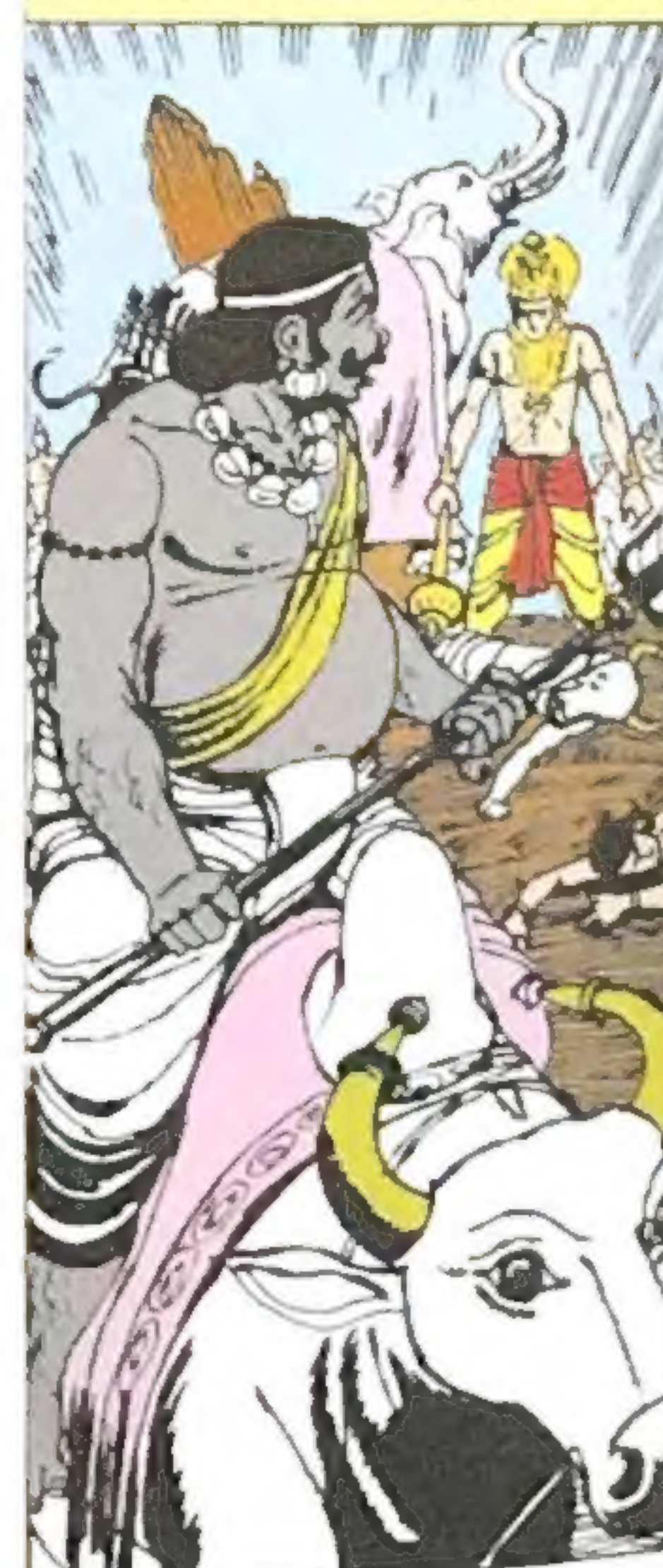
NANDI PIERCED HIM WITH HIS TRIDENT.



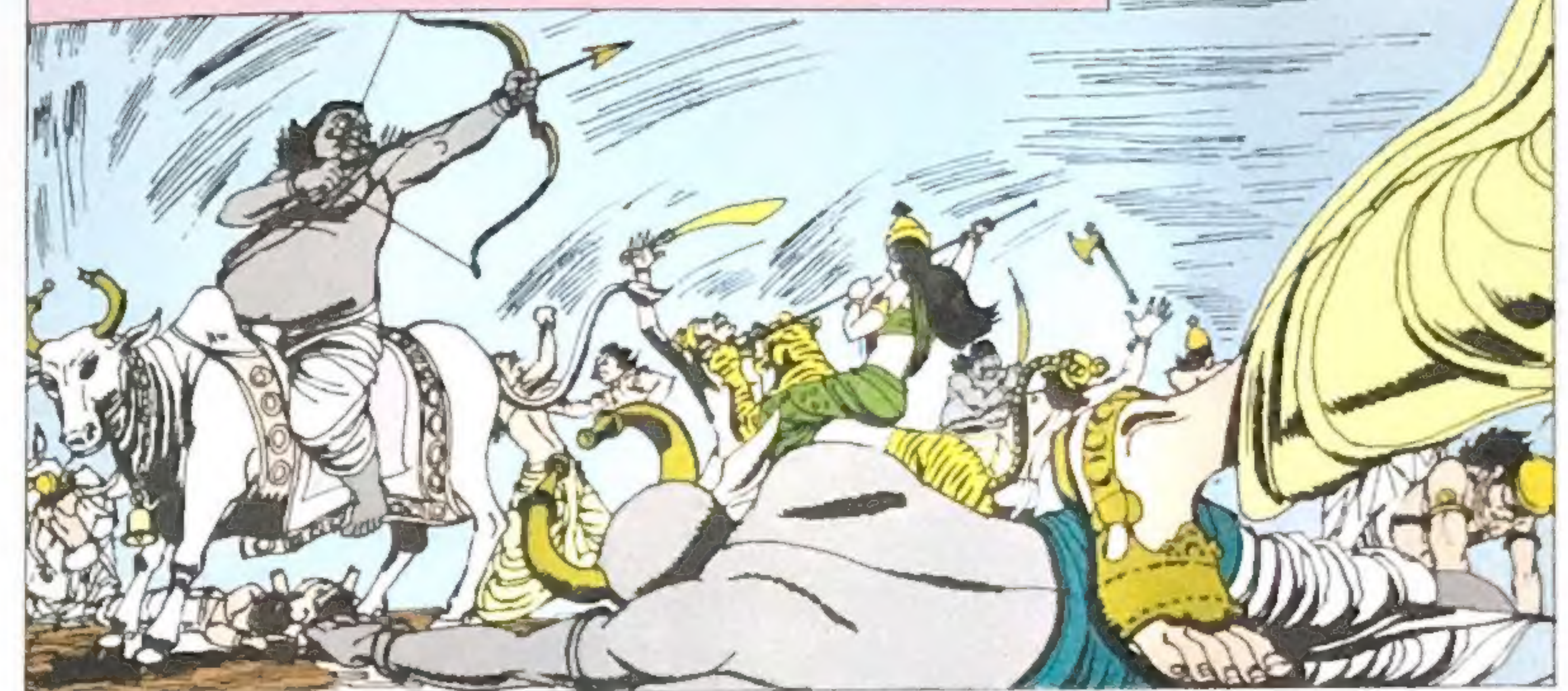
INDRA RETALIATED WITH HIS THUNDERBOLT, AND NANDI FELL.



VIRABHADRA WAS FURIOUS TO SEE SHIVA'S FAVOURITE LYING UNCONSCIOUS.



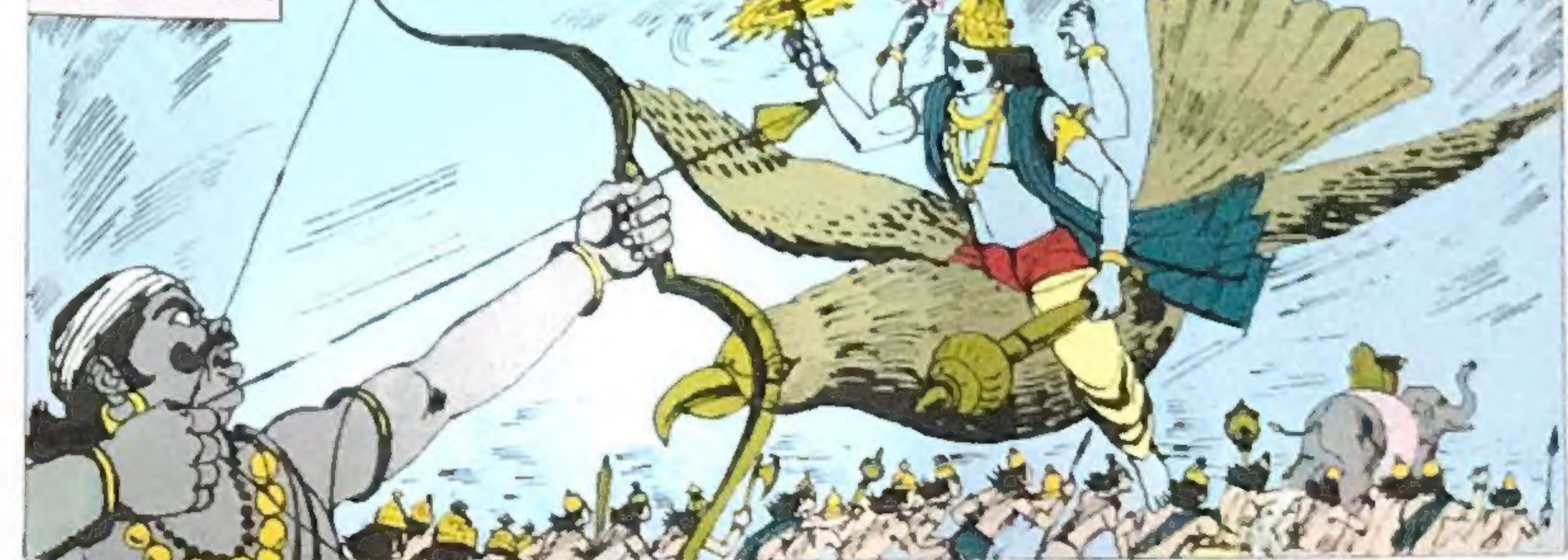
HE DREW HIS BOW AND LET FLY HIS DEADLY ARROWS.



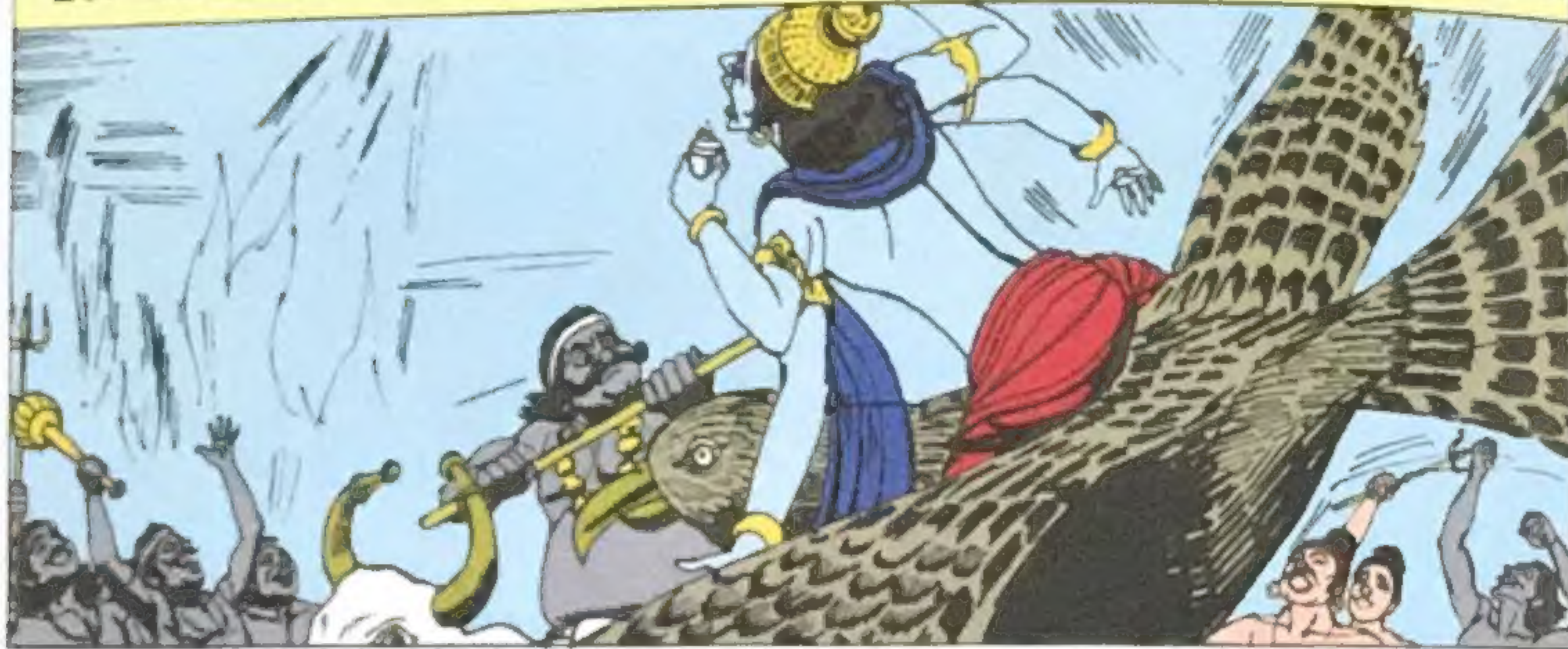
SEVERELY WOUNDED, EVEN INDRA HAD TO FLEE.



THEN VISHNU CAME FORWARD, TOOK INDRA'S POSITION AND FACED VIRABHADRA.



BUT VIRABHADRA CHARGED WITH HIS TRIDENT AND VISHNU FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



LEAVING HIM THERE, VIRABHADRA WENT IN SEARCH OF DAKSHA.



HE TORE OFF DAKSHA'S HEAD AND...



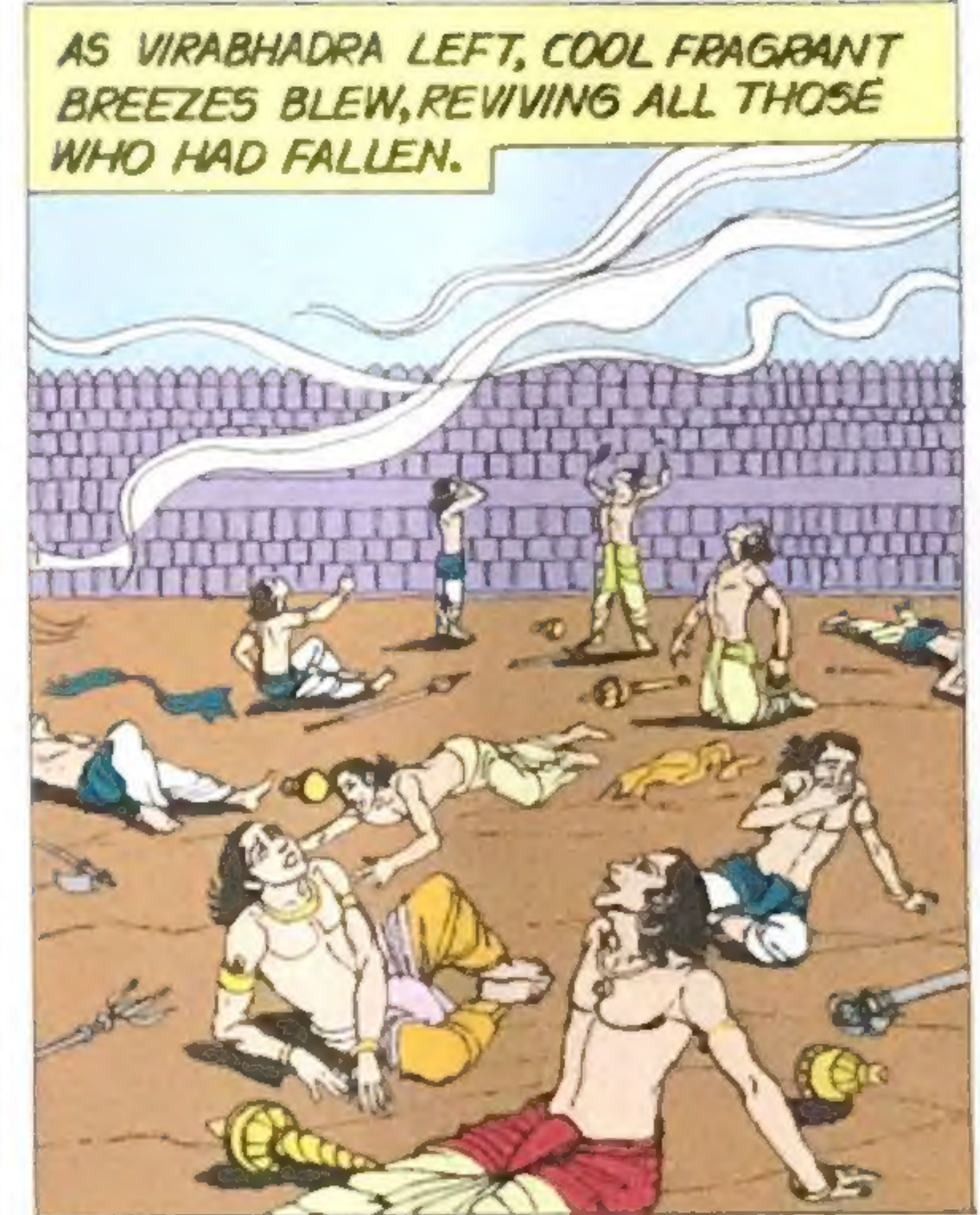
...THREW IT INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.



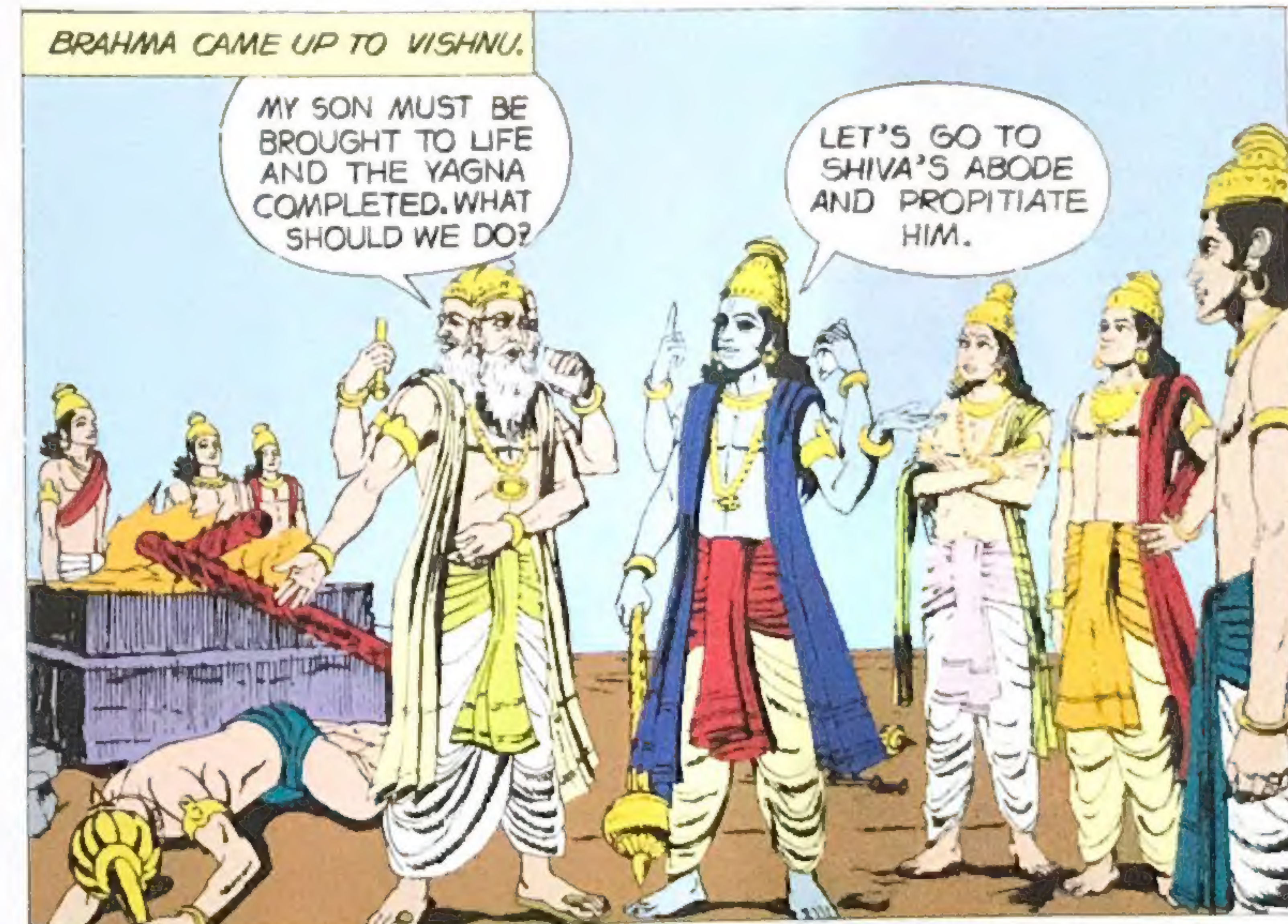
HIS TASK ACCOMPLISHED, HE RETURNED TO KAILAS.



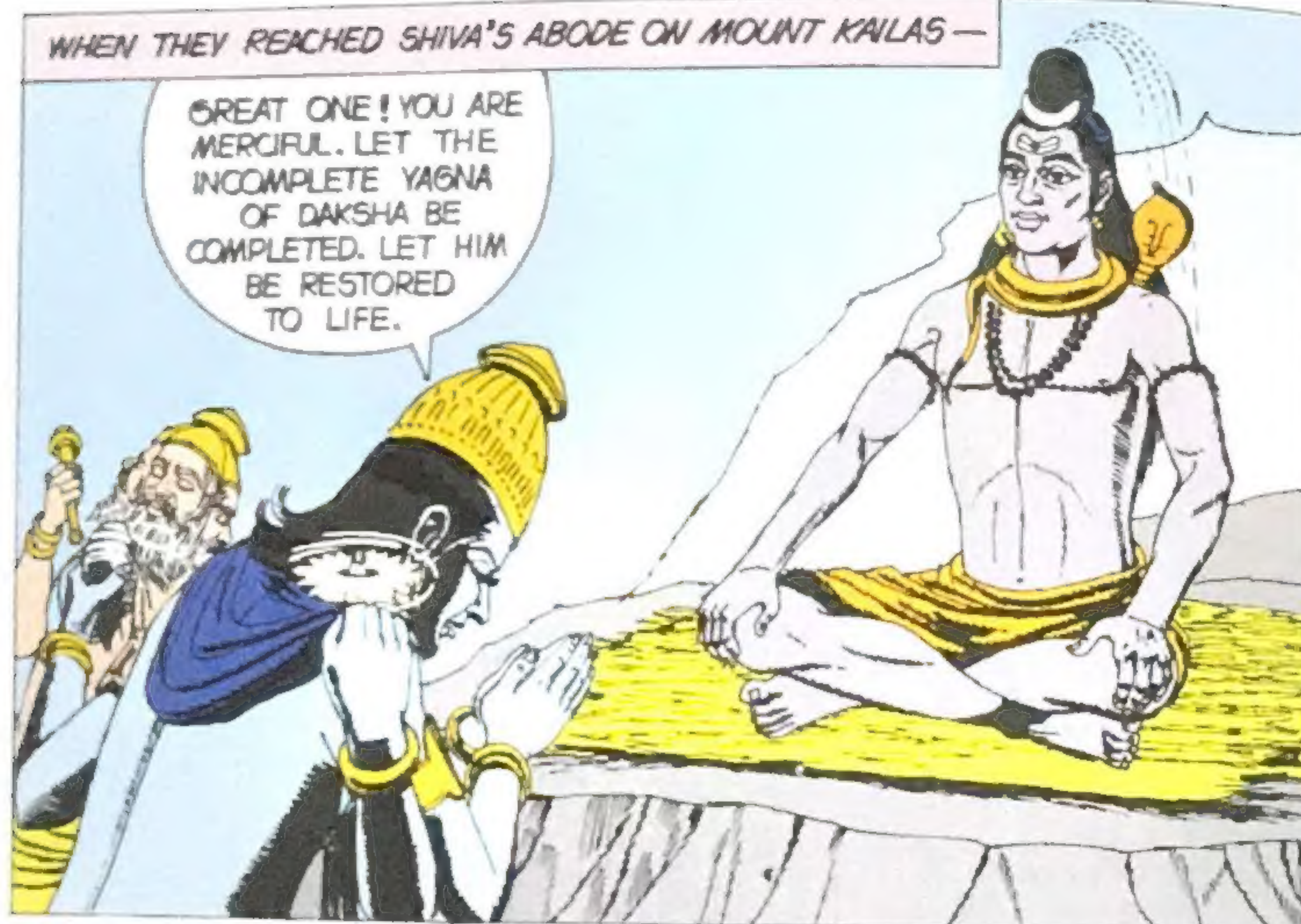
AS VIRABHADRA LEFT, COOL FRAGRANT BREEZES BLEW, REVIVING ALL THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN.



BRAHMA CAME UP TO VISHNU.



WHEN THEY REACHED SHIVA'S ABODE ON MOUNT KAILAS —



WHEN THEY REACHED THE VENUE OF THE SACRIFICE —



THE HEAD WAS BROUGHT. SHIVA JOINED IT TO DAKSHA'S NECK



DAKSHA SLOWLY AROSE AS IF FROM A DEEP SLEEP.



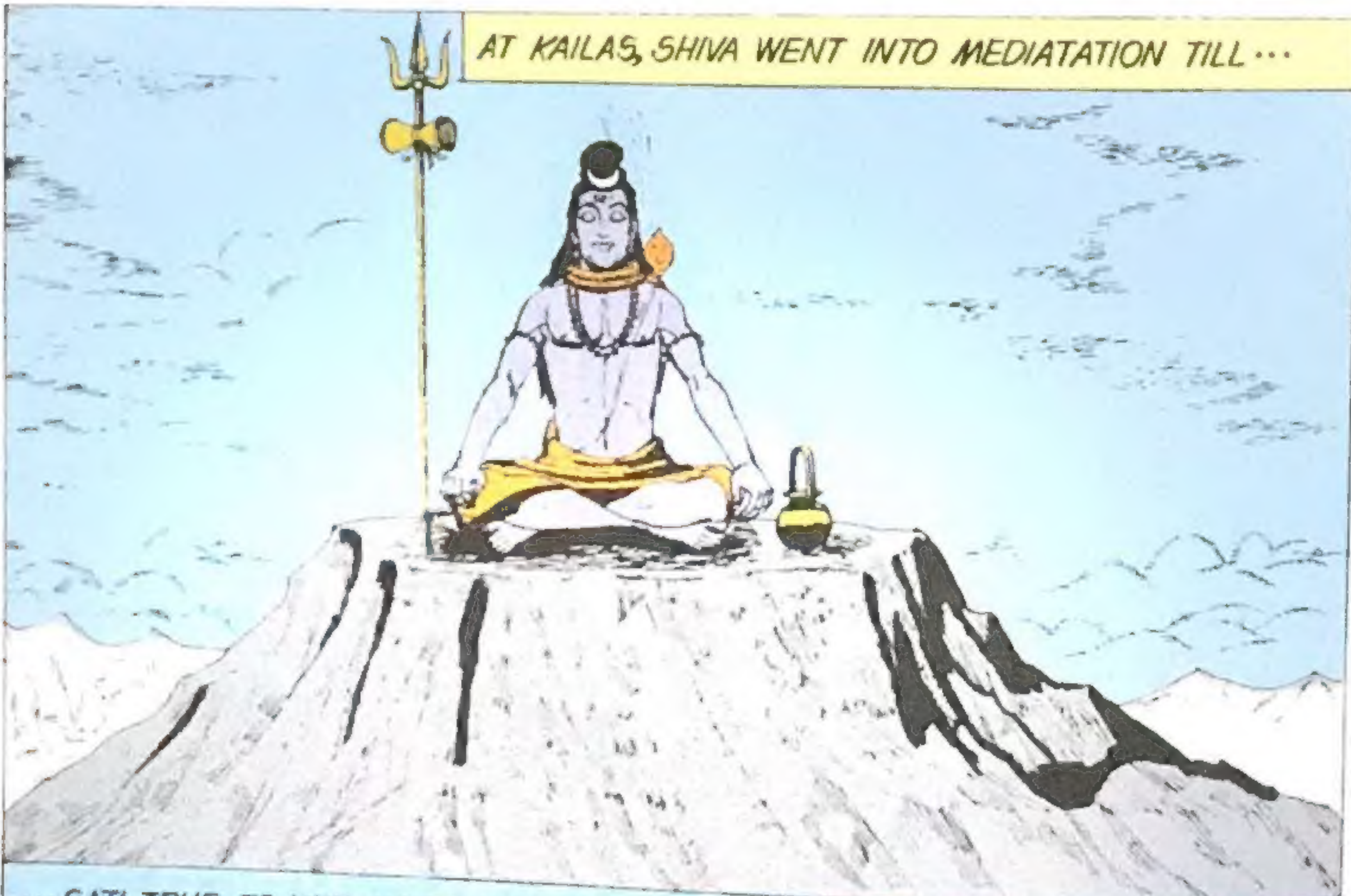
WHEN HE SAW SHIVA, HE BOWED BEFORE HIM.



WITH SHIVA'S PERMISSION AND GRACIOUS BLESSINGS, DAKSHA COMPLETED THE YAGNA.



AT KAILAS, SHIVA WENT INTO MEDITATION TILL ...



...SATI, TRUE TO HER WORD, WAS REBORN AS PARVATI TO HIMAVAN, A FATHER SHE COULD LOVE AND RESPECT AND WHO LOVED AND RESPECTED HER. AND AS PARVATI SHE WOODED AND WON SHIVA, NEVER TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM AGAIN.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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The Elephant
The Brahmin And
The Goat
The Dullard
The Greedy Mother-
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